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Navy Commander Gromov Ponders Implications of START II

PM2601094593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 4

[Interview with Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy, by Aleksandr Veledeyev; place and date not given: "START II: The Naval Aspect. Russian Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Feliks Gromov Answers Questions From ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Correspondent Aleksandr Veledeyev"]

[Text] [Veledeyev] Feliks Nikolayevich, what is the role and the place of the naval component in the strategic nuclear forces of Russia and the United States at the present time?

[Gromov] Historically the United States has paid most attention to naval forces in developing its strategic nuclear forces. At present approximately 55 percent of all U.S. strategic nuclear weapons are on submarines.

The main might of Russia's strategic forces has been concentrated on ground-launched ICBM's. Our Navy's share of nuclear weapons was approximately 27 percent, but nevertheless sufficient attention was paid to the naval component. In the Russian Navy a leading role is played by nuclear-powered missile submarines, a special place among which is occupied by Typhoon class strategic submarine cruisers. All of them are capable of resolving stipulated tasks in ensuring security and strategic stability.

In the light of START II the role of the naval component of Russia's strategic nuclear forces has altered so as to increase the share of nuclear weapons, entailing greater responsibility on our part for resolving the main tasks entrusted to the strategic nuclear forces.

[Veledeyev] What is the difference between START II and START I with regard to the Navy?

[Gromov] START II has been concluded as a development of existing agreements on reducing strategic offensive weapons. START II contains no fundamentally new provisions in respect of the Navy—in practice, we are continuing to cut our missile submarines and corresponding SLBM's as envisaged by the earlier treaty.

At the same time it has to be noted that this treaty for the first time establishes restrictions on the maximum level of warheads for deployed SLBM's on both sides, whereas previously, under START I, such levels were established in common for deployed ICBM's and SLBM's.

[Veledeyev] What quantitative restrictions are established regarding warheads on deployed SLBM's under START II?

[Gromov] START II stipulates that over the first seven-year period of cuts the level of warheads for deployed SLBM's will be reduced to 2,160 units and that ultimately, by 1 January 2003, it will be 1,700-1,750 charges. Thus the United States will reduce the number of warheads on its SLBM's by a factor of 3.3, and Russia by a factor of 1.6.

At the same time, it has to be remembered that other navies also have nuclear-powered submarines carrying ballistic missiles and nuclear warheads. The British Navy has four of them, France has five, and China one. Moreover, Britain is modernizing its naval nuclear forces, commissioning new nuclear-powered submarines equipped with "Trident-2" missiles.

We are entitled to hope that these countries will join more vigorously in the treaty process regarding the naval components of nuclear forces too.

On the whole START II can be evaluated as another step in the sphere of eradicating the nuclear threat, of strengthening confidence-building measures between Russia and the United States, and of constructive cooperation in the cause of disarmament.

When evaluating this treaty we should proceed from the realities of the current economic situation, the change of priorities in our foreign policy, and the continuous and uninterrupted nature of the treaty process. The implementation of START II will not entail additional expenditure for the Navy during the first stage in comparison with START I.

[Veledeyev] How will the strategic forces of Russia and the United States look by the end of START II's second stage of cuts?

[Gromov] The United States will have 18 Ohio class missile submarines with 432 deployed modern "Trident 2" missiles, the construction of which is now under way and will continue, obviously, until 1997.

Under START II each "Trident 2" SLBM will be permitted four warheads, although it is potentially possible to equip them with between 12 and 14 warheads, as was done during tests of these missiles.

This position obliges us to pay close attention to maintaining the requisite level of combat readiness and to the qualitative improvement of our naval strategic nuclear forces. We are planning to keep on the effective combat strength relatively new submarines constructed in the 1980's. The construction of ships of this class was finished in our country in 1990. Scientific and design studies are being done on this theme. And depending upon the world political situation and the progress of the disarmament process—on whether or not it becomes universal—a decision will have to be made to renew this potential. Of course, all of this places special responsibility on the Navy for ensuring the necessary level of training for nuclear missile submarine crews, complete safety in operating weapons and equipment and a high degree of readiness for their use, and efficient organization in the peformance of alert duty and all everyday

activity. This relates primarily to the Northern and Pacific Fleets, where these ships can be found carrying out their tasks.

Mirzayanov Interviewed on Chemical Weapons Secrecy

MK2301144493 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 23 Jan 93 p5

[Interview with Vil Mirzayanov by Konstantin Katanyan; place and date not given: "They Wanted To Make Me the Scapegoat"]

[Text] [Katanyan] After the well-known piece in MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI you found yourself behind bars. But a year before, after your first article in KURANTY, Mirzayanov was for some reason ignored by the competent agencies. So why was such careless negligence displayed at the time?

[Mirzayanov] I think this was linked with the fact that at that time the top leadership of our military-chemical complex, which was well versed in the rules of the game of misleading public opinion, resorted to a different weapon—silence. And although the article in KURANTY virtually coincided with the MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI article entitled "Poisoned Policy," it did not spark a reaction among either the Russian or the foreign public.

But there was a reaction to the item nevertheless—at that very time I was fired from the institute where I had been working for the previous few years.

[Katanyan] As is known, soon after the MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI item the American press carried information which was even more secret than what you had been talking about. So why are attempts made to place the entire blame for divulging state secrets on Mirzayanov? Do you not suspect an attempt thereby to conceal another source of the information that gets to the West?

[Mirzayanov] I think you are right. A month after the MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI article the BALTIMORE SUN carried another article about the situation in terms of chemical weapons in Russia which cited what was indeed secret information. This testifies that foreign correspondents have independent channels of information. So my arrest had the objective not only of intimidating me and other experts in the field of chemical weapons but also of covering someone's tracks and diverting suspicion from the real sources of secret information and also from those in the West with an interest in obtaining this secret information.

[Katanyan] So why is an attempt being made to keep these people in the shadows? Who are they—well-known scientists or top officials in state structures?

[Mirzayanov] I believe that the people selling the country's secrets do not include real scientists or ordinary engineers. The top leadership is another matter; it is playing a game of its own. And I fear that the top leadership of the U.S. military-chemical complex is also involved in this game.

The KGB, the leadership of the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, and the generals [generalitet] all have a material interest in providing themselves with a gravy train cloaked in secrecy. It was recently revealed that Petrunin, director of the State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology, and the leadership of the Ministry of the Chemical Industry received a Lenin Prize for developing a binary weapon based not on agent Novoye [Novoye veshchestvo], as stated in the official sources, but on agent Cheboksary [Cheboksarskoye veschestvo]. Agent Novoye was held in reserve to be used to get another prize. And only unforeseen circumstances prevented them getting it.

The same thing is happening now. Since we are disarming, destroying old weapons, and saving the world from them, why should we not publish information about our binary weapons of one kind or another. But this is not happening. So why is the military-chemical complex leadership keeping these secrets? It is clear that this is being done not in Russia's interests but in the interests of high-ranking officials capable of trading in the information they possess.

[Katanyan] Do you have information on who can transfer secret information to the West?

[Mirzayanov] Of course. Abroad there are three of our experts who are much better informed in the field of chemical weapons than I am. They know everything. They are now permanently resident in the United States and have a very good life there, to the best of my knowledge.

Of course they have not written about what they know in the newspapers or trumpeted about the danger of chemical weapons, although they know that our stockpiles are as high as 60,000-70,000 tonnes, by no means the 40,000 tonnes cited by General Kuntsevich, an academician and chairman of the Convention Committee under the Russian president.

[Katanyan] So how did the state security organs allow these people to go abroad?

[Mirzayanov] Either they were sent specially—meaning that the KGB sent them there for the purpose of spreading disinformation—or a blind eye was turned to their departure. But that means that somebody was benefiting. I know for a fact that many of my scientist colleagues would like to go to the United States and that people linked to secret work are simply not let out of the country. So KGB authorization was essential.

[Katanyan] The sanction used against you by the KGB in the shape of the Russian Ministry of Security was arrest. Did they not attempt to pressure you to admit your guilt?

[Mirzayanov] Everything boiled down to precisely that. During interrogation, when I was accused of giving away state secrets and damaging the country's defense capability, they very much wanted to have a record of my saying with my own lips that I had deliberately given away all this information obtained in connection with my professional post at the research institute.

At the time it might have been possible to pretend that nobody had given away any information to anyone. And then they would have managed to make me the scapegoat. But I did not give away any secrets in those articles, I only warned about the danger of continuing to produce new binary substances leading to the violation of the agreement with the United States on halting work in this field.

[Katanyan] Did they not attempt to apply physical or psychological measures against you?

[Mirzayanov] I was not allowed a lawyer, and the Chekists tried for a long time to impose a defense attorney from among their agents on me. Here they resorted to overt lies, claiming that my wife had agreed to the services of attorney Vasilyev, whom I rejected.

[Katanyan] Fortunately the court released you from custody. Do you think that if you has stayed behind bars you could have withstood the psychological pressure of prison?

[Mirzayanov] My being released from custody had not figured in the investigators' plans. They had not reckoned that I would be at liberty and would be able to legally divulge everything I knew. A lawyer may make a written commitment of nondivulgence, but I didn't make such a commitment.

But if I had been kept in prison it would have been very easy to fabricate a case. The atmosphere of total isolation and being cut off from the outside world drags a person down.

[Katanyan] We know well from history what dirty methods were used by the competent organs to get suspects to admit their guilt. Often criminals or informers would be planted in a cell with them. Did anything like that happen to you?

[Mirzayanov] For three days I was on my own in a cell for three. Then I refused to eat, sustaining my hunger strike for two days before being transferred to another cell.

There were two people in this other cell with me: One was accused of currency smuggling, the other of killing a KGB officer. It is hard for me to judge whether they were plants or not. In this field the KGB is unsurpassed by any other agency. But I do not want to besmirch my cell mates, especially since they gave me the idea of filing a complaint of unlawful arrest, after which the court freed me.

[Katanyan] The wave of press interest in your case has subsided somewhat now. Only PRAVDA continues with its counterpropaganda in an attempt to prove that you are guilty of at least slander.

[Mirzayanov] For me the KGB and PRAVDA are linked together in a single and indivisible whole. Only after the investigating bodies admit that they made a mistake and the case is closed will the KGB'S obedient organ PRAVDA stop its brainwashing of readers aimed at misleading the public.

[Katanyan] Nevertheless I want to go back to the article in PRAVDA on 9 January in which State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology Director Petrunin, citing your official reports from 1986 and subsequent years, claimed that a control analysis of an air sample above the enterprise site showed no special product there. Did you really sign such reports?

[Mirzayanov] There is formal system of so-called emission monitoring. All plants have such a system. We know that they discharge thousands of tonnes of waste into the atmosphere, but laboratory analysis shows the reverse. And this goes on until they are caught red-handed by monitoring agencies with a real interest in protecting the environment.

The enterprises' own monitoring services, however, carry out analyses without having specialist equipment. For example, my department was called on to monitor leaks into the atmosphere of the new agent; the old ones did not interest us. Resistance to foreign technical intelligence consisted of preventing leaks of new information, known as "know-how."

At the same time an entire engineering department—the gas decontamination department—was loading reactors with kilograms of a substance to be destroyed. And since the institute's laboratories were not provided with filters to prevent toxins being discharged into the atmosphere, Moscow's air was being constantly polluted.

The point is not that we are fools or criminals. No. It is just that the top military-chemical leadership skimped on ecology. And without filters, any handling of toxins leads to a leak.

[Katanyan] So the institute's staffers were also receiving a dose of toxins?

[Mirzayanov] Of course. Only an ignorant KGB agent could imagine that the numerous poisonings that occurred were the result of working with a sealed ampoule, as described in PRAVDA. I myself was poisoned. Many others were poisoned.

[Katanyan] And you kept quiet about it?

[Mirzayanov] That is our tragedy. Because if you got poisoned, it was deemed to be either an accident or your own fault.

The victim was always to blame. That was our custom. But he was not the only one to be punished, they also demoted the chief of the subdivision responsible for the safety of operations. We were in the habit of calling a doctor only if someone was dying or suffered a serious injury.

I would be happy to invite the author of the PRAVDA article, who is trying to reassure the public, to come and do a tour of duty in our laboratory. I do not think he could stand the work, psychologically. Imagine you have to take a glass ampoule containing a military toxin, make an incision into it with a molybdenum or wolfram knife, break it open, and pour the contents into another ampoule or phial...

[Katanyan] Without a gas mask?

[Mirzayanov] You just cannot do it in a gas mask. You are wearing gloves and you are working under a hood,of course. But the knowledge that you are holding in your hands not only your own death, but that of many others is oppressive even for the calmest people. Many people simply cannot work with these substances.

[Katanyan] As I understand it, the title of the article, "Let's Wait a Bit Longer for the Destruction of Moscow," does not reflect the real state of affairs.

[Mirzayanov] It is not a question of waiting. Discharges must be stopped completely, so as to rule out that threat.

[Katanyan] So this threat is not ruled out today. Do you know of specific cases of accidents as a result of which not only the institute's staffers, but also inhabitants of the capital could have been poisoned?

[Mirzayanov] Yes. In February 1980, for instance, there was a fire in the laboratory's main block. Professor Georgiy Ivanovich Drozd and his colleagues were doing experiments. They put five 100-gram ampoules in a Kepler incubator. In order to speed up the experiment and to be able to report on the results in good time, they deliberately left the incubator switched on overnight. During the night there was a surge in tension and the apparatus caught fire. A fire started and was noticed by people crossing the bridge on the streetcar. Our own fire crew was asleep, as usual. The firefighters arrived in response to an "01" call, but at first they would not let them into the compound. But the firefighters swept aside the guards, reached the site of the blaze, and started putting the fire out with water. The water went all over them and they were enveloped in smoke.

They put the fire out and left. And no one knows what has become of them today. If they are alive, I am very pleased. But the smoke spread over Moscow too. There was approximately 400 grams of the substance in the incubator. Not a single gram was found subsequently. Yet just one gram is enough to kill more than 100 people. Where did the smoke settle? Nobody inquired.

And we had fires no more and no less often than other chemical institutes.

[Katanyan] There are plenty of these institutes in Moscow...

[Mirzayanov] And each with its leaks. But there are also very extensive leaks. For instance, after an experiment they wash the equipment with water from the mains. And where does it go? Into the sewage system, that is, into the ground.

During the war, at our plant there were tons of mustard gas which were not even buried, just poured into a hole. That went into the ground too. That is why Petrunin is denying the existence of artesian wells.

Ask any worker—they really do not know about these wells. But I have a piece of paper written by the chief of the Health Ministry's Third Administration. It says that the artesian wells on the territory of the State Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology have been plugged.

[Katanyan] Which means they exist?

[Mirzayanov] Plugged means closed from above. How can you close something that does not exist? I found these wells to be polluted. The entire territory is contaminated, and substances are certainly filtering through the soil and getting into the water which you and I use.

The director could take the opportunity to obtain additional funds and decontaminate the territory. But he is concealing glaring facts. Why, one wonders?

[Katanyan] Why indeed?

[Mirzayanov] It is a continuation of a policy made by unclean hands. A poisoned policy.

In January A. Kozyrev signed the convention banning chemical weapons in Paris. But the new military toxin which had been undergoing tests at Russian testing grounds for 15 years did not go on the list of prohibited substances. Since that substance is not in the convention, we can produce and even sell it.

Another point. On 16 September B. Yeltsin signed a decree giving a list of chemical goods and semifinished products for the synthesis of chemical agents whose export from Russia without license is prohibited. The list even includes a component of the American VX binary agent which Russia has never produced. But the components of agent Cheboksary are not on the list, the new agent and the semifinished products for its manufacture are not on the list. Hence the conclusion—they can be exported and sold.

One last thing, which I have not told anyone before. I have it on reliable authority that all the technical and technological documentation of our toxin production plants, beginning in 1985, was completely reworked for submission to the bodies responsible for verification of compliance with the Geneva Convention. Naturally, it was falsified. Or else why rework it? This act was planned under the totalitarian regime, prepared under

Gorbachev, and carried out under the democrats, under the Yeltsin regime. Does this not explain the repressive actions against me?

People "at the top" realize that I am a skilled chemist, that I can speak out loud about this terrible thing, and that I am not afraid just because a secret provision on state secrecy will be used against me, a provision which they do not want to tell me about even now. This provision was deemed unlawful by the USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee, but now it is being applied again.

[Katanyan] What are you planning to do?

[Mirzayanov] I intend to send an open letter to the heads of state of Western countries: President Clinton, President Mitterrand, Chancellor Kohl, and Prime Minister Major. I want to warn them that in Russia, despite the appearance of disarmament and democratization, people are persecuted for publicizing the dangerous intentions of the military-chemical complex. Intentionally or otherwise, President Yeltsin is promoting this. I accuse him of negligence, and I am prepared to describe his actions as a crime, unless the dangerous experiments with military toxins are stopped immediately.

Shaposhnikov: Russia 'Heir' to Soviet Nuclear Potential

OW2501180393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov has said, commenting on the positions of the four CIS nuclear states (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine), that Russia was the undisputed heir to the Soviet nuclear potential and that all her demands were justified. Belarus had already virtually handed over this right judicially. Kazakhstan also had agreed in principle with the need to do this without any material compensation from Russia.

As far as Ukraine was concerned, the question of compensation and the specific military units which formed strategic nuclear forces ought to be resolved within a month. Shaposhnikov said that the Russian leadership had already begun to receive signals that Ukraine would adopt the necessary position.

The Supreme Command itself "with understanding relates to the unclear position of the Ukrainian leadership with regard to the state ownership of nuclear weapons situated on the Republic's territory." Shaposhnikov considered that "this has been brought about primarily by the fact that a section of the Ukrainian parliament would like to alter Ukraine's non-nuclear status without realizing what huge financial resources would be necessary to maintain the functioning and safety of nuclear weapons. [no closing quotation marks as received]

The marshal expressed the hope that Russia and Ukraine would soon formulate an effective mechanism of control for the safety of nuclear weapons. "The only provisions so far agreed are for the Russian Defence Ministry together with the CIS Supreme Command to carry out the technical supervision. However, if Russia and Ukraine so wished, I would not object if I did not take part in this process myself," Shaposhnikov said.

Russia Willing To Compensate

LD2601093193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS joint Armed Forces, has stated that Russia is agreeable to offering compensation to Ukraine for renouncing its nuclear arsenal. Shaposhnikov told journalists in Moscow that the compensation could be offered among other things in the form of fuel for atomic power stations. According to Shaposhnikov, a new stage has been reached in settling the problem and a decision, to all appearances, is quite close.

Status of Talks Reviewed

LD2501154593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1450 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Jan—The majority of participants in the Minsk summit of the CIS did not sign the agreement on amendments to the strategic forces agreement. Discussion of this document has been postponed until the next meeting of the Commonwealth heads of state, which is scheduled for 30 April in Yerevan. Until then the problems of strategic forces on the territory of former Soviet republics will be resolved through bilateral talks. This was stated at a news conference today by Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. At the news conference, he reviewed the results of the meetings of the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Defense Ministers in Minsk.

Almost 15 documents on military-political issues were adopted in Minsk on 20-22 January. In spite of this seemingly favorable background, the fate of the unsigned agreement and related differences between Ukraine and Russia on strategic nuclear forces dominated the commander in chief's news conference.

According to Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, nuclear weapons must belong to a specific state. Under the Lisbon protocol, Russia became the legal successor to the former USSR for strategic nuclear forces. However, the Minsk summit showed that the parties disagree on strategic forces. But it also indicated that possible contradictions can be eliminated at a bilateral level. Belarus has renounced nuclear power status. Kazakhstan does not lay claim to nuclear weapons either and hopes to get rid of them by the year 2000. Ukraine, on the other hand, regards nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory as its own, rather than Russia's. At the same time, it does not deny Russia the right to check on the technical condition of nuclear armaments. The dispute over the Ukrainian "nuclear button," which is currently under the control of Commander in Chief Shaposhnikov, will be the subject of discussions between Ukraine and Russia over the next month.

Leaders at CIS Summit Sign Various Agreements

Troops To Go to Tajikistan

WS2501120093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Tajik Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmonov stated that the current summit meeting allowed him to look into the CIS's future with optimism. In particular, he said that the efforts of Tajikistan's new leadership to stabilize the situation in the country received the support of the majority at the summit. The CIS leaders also confirmed their intention to send peacekeeping troops and humanitarian aid to Tajikistan.

Rakhmonov noted that the republic's leadership has enough means to stop any provocations on the Tajik-Afghani border. He also said that a preliminary agreement was reached to hold an official Russian-Tajik summit in early February.

TV, Radio Company Planned

LD2501190493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1702 GMT 25 Jan 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 25 January—At the Minsk summit of CIS countries on 22 January, the heads of government signed a decision on questions of an inter-state television and radio company. Its charter and the composition of the constituent committee for the establishment of the company, made up of plenipotentiary representatives of the founding states, were confirmed. This committee will in one month submit a draft statute and proposal on the composition of the interstate coordinating council. During this period, the governments will define the contributions being made by them to the company. The Russian Ostankino State Radio and Television Company has been charged with fulfillment of the company's functions until the moment of its legal registration. At the same time a protocol decision has been registered, appointing Gadilbek Shalakhmetov, plenipotentiary representative of Kazakhstan, as chairman of the interstate television and radio company.

Legal, Social Convention Signed

LD2501190893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1818 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 25 ITAR-TASS—All participants in the January 22 meeting of the CIS Council of the Heads of State joined the convention on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal cases.

Under this convention, citizens of every convention member-country and other citizens residing on its territory have the right to appeal freely and without hindrance to competent justice agencies in any of the parties to the convention, appear before them, submit requests, sue other individuals or legal bodies and take part in other procedures on the same terms as the citizens of this country.

The convention does not encroach on provisions of other international treaties to which the convention members are party and is subject to their ratification. After the ratification, the convention will be in effect for five years.

The heads of state, excepting the representative of Turkmenistan, agreed to the decision to create an InterState Court of the Commonwealth. The draft agreement on this, submitted by Kazakhstan, will be finalized within a month for a court to settle ethnic and interstate disputes and differences. The next meeting of the Council of the Heads of State will endorse the final draft.

Also adopted (unanimously) was a decision on preparations for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary in World War II. The heads of government of the Commonwealth member-countries were instructed to prepare proposals for the celebration in time for the next summit.

The heads of government signed an agreement on joint activity with respect to humanitarian aid arriving from other countries. The agreement, which is to be ratified by member-countries, provides for most favored treatment to transportation of this aid on their territories. Ukraine alone did not sign the agreement.

A decision was adopted to mutually recognise the right to privileged travel for war invalids, participants in World War II and persons of the same status.

The draft agreement, the main provisions of which were approved at the summit, will be finalized and submitted to the meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government scheduled for March.

Agreement on Security, Rail Cars

LD2501213993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1714 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 25 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—At the CIS Council of Heads of State in Minsk on 22 January, an agreement was concluded on the regulation of the interstate securities market. Debt bonds of the bodies of state power and administration, and shares and securities of economic subjects are involved. The document reflects the common interests of coordinating the policy and regulating the emission and circulation of securities, and the activity of professional operators in their market, investment institutions, and stock exchanges.

The heads of state signed an agreement on division of the inventoried parks of freight cars and containers of the former USSR Ministry of Railways among the member states of the Commonwealth, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the Baltic Republics, and their further joint use for maintaining the single technology of rail transport. The coordination of this work has been entrusted to a special council.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Sums Up Minsk Summit

PM2601104593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Oleg Falichev article: "Outcome of the Minsk Summit: Seven Remainder Three"]

[Text] So, the Minsk meeting of heads of state and government, with so much said and written about its exceptional importance for the CIS' future, is behind us. It passed off far from simply, amid debates, but its final

result is undoubtedly optimistic. It has laid firm foundations for building closer relations between the CIS states in the future. Belarus President S. Shushkevich, for example, assessed the outcome of the meeting as follows: "The session was unanimous as never before, the heads of state understood each other as never before. To my very great satisfaction, positive decisions were made on almost all issues."

What sort of issues are these? The political and economic package contains the following: The establishment of an interstate bank, the regulation of the interstate securities market, measures aimed at stabilizing the situation in the sector of the Republic of Tajikistan's state border with Afghanistan, preparation for celebrating the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War... There is no point in enumerating all the issues. It is important that the main, definitive issues, as Premier V. Chernomyrdin stressed, were in the economic and political spheres. And this instills hope.

Yes, economics today, as they say, dictate the rules of the game. But everyone realized: The CIS Charter is a sort of watershed, a moment of truth, defining the attitude of the leaders of various states to the future of the Commonwealth. What was the outcome on this issue? The Charter was signed by seven of the 10 participants in the session: Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Three—Ukraine, Moldova, and Turkmenistan—did not sign. But, allowing for the fact that at present there are nine states in the CIS (the Moldovan parliament has not ratified the CIS treaty), two states have remained outside the Charter's framework. "But this does not mean that we are not CIS members," L. Kravchuk, for example, remarked in his statement. What does he mean? First, that, in his opinion, the Charter is still "raw" and needs further work on it. Second, Ukraine, as well as Turkmenistan and Moldova, advocate different levels of participation in the CIS. For example, only economic integration. Possibly also associate membership.

Of course, it is the sovereign right of each state to have its own attitude to the CIS Charter. But it is hardly possible to entirely agree with Leonid Makarovich [Kravchuk] here. Judging by everything, his position boils down to joining the CIS, enjoying the economic opportunities afforded to its members, but at the same time remaining free of any obligations. To be able, for example, to buy oil and gas at reduced prices and enjoy guarantees of nuclear security... But there are no rights without obligations. If a state counts on receiving any privileges in the Commonwealth, it should obviously delegate to it some of its rights. And those remaining outside the Commonwealth will naturally find themselves in the category of countries of the "more distant foreign parts," with the trade duties applicable to them.

But there is still time. The CIS Charter is still open for signing. The Commonwealth countries will be able accede to it within one year. Within the same period the parliaments of the republics which have signed the Charter are due to ratify it. Thus, it will be January 1994 before we can say definitely who has joined the CIS. Nevertheless, there is greater optimism after the Minsk meeting. This was also said by Russian President B.N. Yeltsin in his statement.

Finally, a word about the military aspect of the Minsk meeting. The military package of documents included the following issues: On the introduction of amendments to the composition of the Strategic Forces, on the Council of Ministers of Defense of heads of state [as published], on the alignment of military legislation of the Commonwealth states... Nuclear weapons, of course, are of paramount importance. But, unfortunately, the divergency of positions between Russia and Ukraine remains.

The question regarding the clarification of the composition of the Strategic Forces also requires further elaboration. Army General P. Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, said that Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan should clarify on a bilateral basis the meaning of the concept "Strategic Forces," which could take about a month. Afterwards this question could be submitted to a session of the council of heads of state. As for Belarus, it has ratified all the agreements on nuclear weapons and it remains only to specify the schedule for withdrawing them from Belarusian territory for subsequent destruction.

Is the question of preserving common Commonwealth defense structures still topical? Many CIS member states see perfectly well that they cannot build an army or a system of national security safeguards on their own. They are already showing a desire for alignment with Russia.

What should be the conclusion from all this? The rumors of the swift demise of the Commonwealth have proved to be hugely exaggerated. The CIS will survive. Whether some politicians want it or not, they cannot disregard economic laws or the opinion of huge numbers of labor collectives, entire regions, and, ultimately, of millions of people connected not only by industrial and cultural ties, but also by blood ties.

Yesterday a press conference for Russian and foreign journalists on the results of the Minsk summit was held in CIS Joint Armed Forces headquarters. It was addressed by Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces. He noted that "we have not managed to resolve all questions on the Strategic Forces." Hence it has been decided to continue work on them and submit them to the next conference of heads of state.

Deals by CIS Leaders 'Will Not Bring Rapid Change'

PM2601111793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko report: "Boris Yeltsin: 'We Realized That We Cannot Live Without One Another...' Minsk

Meeting Approves CIS Charter, Founds Interstate Bank, Signs More than 20 Other Joint Documents"]

[Text] Minsk, Moscow—The twice-postponed meeting of the CIS heads of state and government, originally scheduled for 4 December, gave rise to plenty of conjecture. France's LE FIGARO offered one hypothesis 13 January. "Can this association be considered a commonwealth?" Helene Carrere d'Encausse, member of the Academie Francaise, asked and provided the answer herself: "Of course not, it is so torn by contradictory aspirations."

The 10 presidents of the CIS member countries (Azerbaijan sent its first vice premier V. Akhmedov as an observer) who met in the Belarusian capital last Friday seem to have convincingly disproved the eminent French academic's conclusion. Even Nursultan Nazarbayev, who has repeatedly voiced skepticism over the results of almost every summit meeting, admitted this time: "I am happy today..."

Andrey Kozyrev: "Our Task Is To Strengthen the Commonwealth..."

The Russian president was expected at Minsk Airport. Andrey Kozyrev, who had taken part in the foreign ministers' talks the day before, was among the welcoming party. When I saw that the minister had finished his conversation with one of his colleagues I asked: "What hopes is the Russian diplomatic service taking to the summit?"

"We are in favor of finding effective solutions," Andrey Vladimirovich said. "But politics is the art of the possible. We expect to choose together the kind of options that do not lead to deadlock but open the way to further progress and the deepening of integration."

"So evidently, the CIS Charter might give the 'green light'?" I asked the minister.

"We are ready to adopt it. It is a good document. But we are also prepared to wait a while if some of our partners want a 'breathing space.' Our task is not to sign another document—there are more than 250 of them already—but to strengthen the Commonwealth."

We put the same question to Stanislav Shushkevich and Leonid Kravchuk. Both the Belarusian and the Ukrainian leaders stressed in their interviews that they are counting on the meeting's being successful. "As a structure," President Kravchuk said, "the CIS has the potential to improve its work in all areas—both political and economic..."

Viktor Chernomyrdin: "Relations Must Be Developed on the Basis of the Economy..."

Long before the meeting in Minsk experts voiced the view that it would only be successful if the presidents succeeded in adopting the CIS Charter and deciding on a mechanism for economic cooperation. There were grounds for "cautious" optimism: It seems that people throughout the Commonwealth have realized that the crisis in which all the former republics of the former USSR have found themselves can be overcome collectively by employing the wise principle of mutual assistance.

The forecast began to be borne out by the time of the first recess in the session of the Council of Presidents. Progress was achieved on the main items on the agenda—the draft Charter and the founding of an Interstate Bank. Compromise was reached on both issues. Seven countries expressed readiness to sign the CIS Charter that same day, but, in order to prevent the other countries ending up outside the Commonwealth framework, it was decided to draft a general statement reflecting the attitude toward this document of all the leaders present. The document boils down to the idea that the participants in the summit will remain members of the Commonwealth, while the Charter is open for signing by those states that are at the moment unwilling to do so for domestic reasons. Commenting on this step, Boris Yeltsin noted: "We have found a solution to suit everyone."

Consensus was also reached in deciding the fate of the Interstate Bank, the idea of which was proposed by the Kazakhstan delegation back in Bishkek. Russia made a concession: It declined to lay claim to 71 percent of the votes on the bank board (that is our country's share of total CIS foreign trade turnover, in accordance with which international organizations allocate founders' votes) and agreed to just one-half. Decisions on lending and other important operations will be made by a specific majority of the board, which has been set at two-thirds of the votes. The CIS unit of accounting has been determined. It is the ruble—Russia's currency. The Russian Federation National Bank has also been given the responsibility of issuing money, which it will do taking the Interstate Bank's recommendations into consideration.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, who chaired the session of the Council of Heads of Government in the absence of the host, Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of the Belarusian Council of Ministers, noted:

"What we have examined will help strengthen economic relations at enterprise level and will ultimately create a basis for confident cooperation in all other spheres. The idea that relations in this new phase should be developed on the basis of the economy is being borne out today more than ever before..."

Pavel Grachev: "Nuclear Weapons Belong to Russia..."

Among the military-political issues only one problem—that of deciding state ownership of the strategic nuclear forces—gave rise to debate. Two viewpoints emerged. The first being that the weapons belong to Russia alone, while the second says that they belong to all the countries on whose territory they are sited.

When I asked about this Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, said:

"The nuclear forces on Belarusian territory are Russian property. We can of course 'put up' some kind of suprastate superstructure. But reality would reject it. Therefore if we intend to insist on our republic's nuclear-free status, we must resolve this task on the basis of bilateral agreements with Russia rather than within the CIS framework..."

Another of my interlocutors, Russian Federation Minister of Defense Pavel Grachev, agreed with the Belarusian speaker's position.

"We have rejected the draft agreement that envisaged the former USSR's nuclear arsenals coming under the jurisdiction of the CIS High Command," Pavel Sergeyevich explained. "Our position is that these weapons belong to Russia. As for the other CIS strategic forces, the composition and branches of these forces should be determined at bilateral talks between the CIS High Command and each of the member countries. And space reconnaissance must not be the subject of debate: Our country alone is doing all the work in space today. But anyone who wants to participate in this work can go ahead and conclude bilateral agreements."

Needless to say, the decisions adopted by the Minsk meeting will not bring rapid change. Moreover, even the accords on the Charter and the Interstate Bank have to be ratified by the national parliaments before they begin to come into effect. And that takes time. But the main result is on hand. "We realized that we cannot live without one another," Boris Yeltsin said at a news conference, and these words were greeted with approval by all the leaders. That means that the next meeting—to be held in Yerevan 30 April at President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's invitation—may give the Commonwealth an even greater boost. Especially since the Russian and Ukrainian presidents have announced that they have whole packages of proposals to submit to this meeting.

Minsk Summit Agreements Viewed as 'Very Shaky'

PM2601105993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 2

[Valeriy Vyzhutovich report: "Declaration on Declaration. CIS Charter Open For Signing After Minsk, but it Has Not Been Signed"]

[Text] Following the Minsk summit, the number of documents signed by the Commonwealth leaders during the year of its existence now exceeds 250. The number of smiles and handshakes that summiteers have exchanged during this period are incalculable.

But the latest agreements, like those before them, are very shaky. Stability was achieved in only one area—in the sense of profound satisfaction which top state officials share with the general public after every summit.

Stanislav Shushkevich: "In substance the Minsk summit of the CIS heads of state and government was the most profound and acute. All leaders without exception proved capable of rising above their immediate interests and moving away from populism."

Boris Yeltsin: "In the year that has passed since the creation of the CIS we have realized that we cannot live without each other... A great deal has been accomplished during this period."

Leonid Kravchuk: "The CIS members have realized that the main thing is to solve our economic problems. The Commonwealth can and must work."

If the political leaders' official optimism about the Commonwealth's prospects does not conflict with the real goals and aspirations of the CIS participants, then the fate of the year-old Belovezhskaya Forest agreement may not be so hopeless. But it does not need a long life. The Commonwealth was needed exclusively to allow the former USSR republics to peacefully bid each other farewell. To permit a smooth, civilized transition from the Soviet empire to the independent existence of sovereign states. This—and nothing else—is the real role of the CIS. That is the gist of any of the agreements—be they shaky, continually breached, or constantly extended.

Just what was accomplished in Minsk?

The draft CIS Charter was signed. A sort of declaration about a declaration. But even this wide-open document that does not commit anyone to anything bristles with fundamental reservations. Uzbekistan is demanding that the section on human rights be removed from the Charter. Belarus is against the paragraphs relating to collective security and joint defense of external borders. And the representatives of Ukraine, Moldova, and Turkmenistan have in general categorically refused to sign the Charter in any form whatsoever, stating that they oppose any documents which pave the way to a confederation.

The talks on the fate of nuclear weapons ended without result too. Belarusian Minister of Defense Pavel Kozlovskiy got through 12 tranquilizers in a discussion with ministers from the three other nuclear republics. Afterward he showed journalists a fairly empty packet and asked them not to tire him with questions.

There were no questions about the temperature of the discussion—the way the Belarusian general was feeling after it (whether it was over or cut short) told you more than any interview could have done.

Unlike Belarus, which does not dispute Russian ownership of nuclear arsenals wherever they may be located, Ukraine firmly stated: Whatever is on our territory should belong to us. The Ukrainian Ministry of Defense intends to seek administrative control over the nuclear button, leaving operational control to the CIS Joint Command. Slightly more restrained is the position of

Kazakhstan, which also wants to take possession of nuclear forces but is at least not demanding access to the control consoles.

If a system of collective security and joint defense of the CIS' external borders is not formulated in the very near future, the community of Central Asian countries, as it has warned, will conclude its own military-political alliance, which will definitely discomfort Slavic neighbors.

Incidentally, Nursultan Nazarbayev has publicly commented that the Minsk talks were "favorably influenced by the Tashkent meeting of the Central Asian states." Reacting to this statement, Leonid Kravchuk voiced the opinion that "people are trying to artificially devote too much attention" to the Tashkent meeting.

The further we go, the more obvious it becomes that not all problems can or should be solved within the CIS framework. The regional interests of certain groups of states will clearly acquire increasing weight, putting the Commonwealth to the test. Will it be able to withstand this test in the time needed by the former Soviet republics to peacefully bid farewell to each other in a worthy and scandal-free manner? The 250 agreements are 250 tranquilizers. Thank God they are still working.

Summit Shows Different Forms, Paces of CIS Integration

WS2501124593 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 0833 GMT 25 Jan 93

["Minsk Summit: The Greater the Variety in the Forms of Membership, the More Hopes for the CIS Future"—BELINFORM headline]

[Text] Minsk, 23 January—The ordinary summit of the CIS leaders held in Minsk confirmed the idea of "different paces" and different forms of the former republics' integration into a new commonwealth of states established on the USSR ruins. The solution concerning the most divisive issue of the CIS statutes divided the states into two groups, based on the degree of their membership in the Commonwealth. There were no surprises. Ukraine, Moldova, and Turkmenistan were those states which refrained from a closer organizational involvement in the CIS structure. The remaining seven republics of the former USSR made up the core where the integration will be speedier. Moreover, there appeared one more group of countries within the CIS: the republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan that are inclined to an even closer unity in the event the CIS does not overcome its amorphous state and turns out to be incapable of solving their urgent economic and security problems. The states of the "outer circle" by no means closed the door on integration and can join the statutes and other documents as soon as they consider it reasonable.

All summit participants acknowledged the necessity of the CIS and their membership in it by adopting a statement parallel to the statutes where they confirmed their membership in the CIS and their allegiance to the common goals. The untimely forecasts about the CIS "death" arise from the fact that each time all CIS members show a growing understanding of the necessity to preserve the entire complex of ties, particularly the economic ones. [sentence incomplete as received] As Boris Yeltsin said assessing the results of the summit, "We have realized that we cannot live without one another."

One could agree with the opinion of Stanislav Shushkevich who presided over the Minsk summit that it was "exceptionally unanimous and productive." It suffices to look at the participants of the final press conference: journalists forgot when they had last seen so many heads of state accompanied by prime ministers.

This unanimity was especially evident while discussing the package of specific economic issues: the establishment of an interstate bank with the ruble as a unit of payment, the agreements on the regulation of the securities market, on the division of railway freight cars of the former USSR, and others. The results of the discussions on military issues are more modest. [passage missing]

Commonwealth's Achievements, Future Prospects Assessed

PM2501111793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 2

[Igor Sukhanov report on interview with Igor Shichanin, chief of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs CIS Affairs Administration; place and date not given: "A Glimpse Into the Future. The Meeting of Commonwealth Heads of State Opens in Minsk Today"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Minsk meeting will take place. What kind of meeting will it be? Igor Shichanin, chief of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs CIS Affairs Administration, answers this question.

[Shichanin] First and foremost, the leaders of the Commonwealth countries will have to discuss the results of the CIS's first year of existence. The Commonwealth emerged in December 1991 from the ruins of a vast country. And it did so primarily to ensure that a unified national economy might start functioning at some point in the future. If nothing else, the CIS has coped with this task—this is the main point. Pessimistic evaluations of CIS activity can be explained mainly by the generally poor state of affairs in all former Union republics. And few people know that quite a few sectoral coordinating organs have been set up within the Commonwealth framework—in railroad transport, fuel, energy... Or that the level of integration in the CIS is much higher than in the European Community, for instance, although this type of comparison is hardly justifiable. There exists within the CIS a unique legal and treaty basis for cooperation—more than 250 documents were signed at interstate level within just one year, and they have now

become the basis of the draft Charter. It may well be that not all the agreements are operating reliably, but with their help it is possible to develop the CIS.

The Council of Heads of States and the Council of Heads of Government are working on a permanent basis. They are unique organs in themselves: Within their framework, the countries' presidents and premiers can discuss and work out solutions to all kinds of problems. Each session's agenda contains between 10 and 20 weighty questions on the former USSR republics' vital activities.

I am firmly convinced that the CIS has accomplished the primary task of the first stage of its existence—the wholesale collapse of that superpower which was the Soviet Union has been averted.

The Minsk meeting should launch a new stage of cooperation emphasizing the development of relations between countries along specific avenues, primarily in the economic sphere. It even seems to me that we are making a grave error in forcing the CIS to find solutions to serious political and especially military problems. It is difficult enough to resolve such issues via multilateral diplomacy, and even more so in our conditions. But everybody has a stake in economic cooperation, and the CIS is viable primarily as an economic community.

In summing up the first year's results, it is interesting to take a look at the future too. Especially as political events on the eve of the Minsk meeting have provided much food for thought.

[Sukhanov] The Tashkent meeting. Its main result was the creation within the CIS framework of a regional alliance of Commonwealth member-states prepared to collaborate more closely and to delegate their individual powers to interstate coordinating structures.

[Shichanin] Russia repeatedly suggested such a development of events. Even prior to the Bishkek meeting, President Yeltsin addressed the leaders of CIS countries and proposed this very option: Anybody who so desires should have an opportunity for closer collaboration within the CIS framework.

[Sukhanov] The numerous meetings between the Commonwealth states' presidents and heads of government prove that the intention to ensure increased reliability in the operation of agreements already reached, primarily in the economic sphere, is strengthening.

[Shichanin] Previously, in the USSR, everybody kept pace with the slowest element. Now Russia's position is clear: Each state yields a weight commensurate to its potential. If a country produces 80 percent of the oil, then it should have the corresponding number of votes during a discussion on "oil" questions. It is necessary to renounce the game of give-away, that form of economic charity which is dangerous for any state. Such a turnabout in policy implies fierce confrontation between countries from time to time. For instance, during the discussion of the pressing issue of setting up a CIS interstate bank, Russia upholds its position on two points of principle, which will probably require a political solution. First: What will be the currency of this bank? All CIS countries advocate that the ruble should become the common currency. Russia points out: The ruble is the currency of the Russian state. In other words, this is a bid to remove emission functions from the Bank of Russia. The second point of contention is the principle for voting within the bank's framework. All CIS countries are in favor of each country's having one vote. Russia's position is that the number of votes should correspond to the country's share in overall commodity turnover within the framework of the former USSR... But our position is this: Russia's interests take precedence.

Grachev on Defense Ministers Council Session

PM2501133393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 1

[Report on interview with Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Oleg Falichev and ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshev; place and date not given: "We Advocate Collective Security"]

[Text] At the request of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Oleg Falichev and ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin, Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, commented on how the discussion of issues went at the 21 January session of the Council of CIS Ministers of Defense. The conversation took place on the eve of the meeting of the Commonwealth heads of state, while the final outcome of the talks, including those on defense problems, was not yet known.

Speaking of the differences of opinion which appeared in the course of the defense ministers' discussion of the Strategic Forces' composition, Army Gen. P. Grachev noted that Russia is proposing to use the term "Strategic Nuclear Forces," taking this concept to include not only the missile complexes themselves, but also nuclear munitions deployed on strategic bombers, missile attack warning systems, antimissile defense systems, air defense systems, and several other control and guidance systems. Some independent states, as well as the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command, do not wish to include all these components in the Strategic Nuclear Forces.

These differences were particularly clear at the Council of Defense Ministers session when Russia's and Ukraine's positions were compared. The Ukrainian side did not agree that the Strategic Nuclear Forces located on its territory belong to Russia. The Ukrainian representatives consider that they are Ukrainian property, but at the same time Ukraine is rejecting the status of a nuclear state. A certain paradox arises here. It is clear that we will not come to an agreement at the level of

defense ministers, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev noted. He said that this issue should obviously be resolved at heads of state level.

The political accord on the Strategic Forces, which was reached at the Moscow meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, remains in force, the minister emphasized. Ukraine is giving our specialists access to the nuclear systems located on its territory for servicing and maintenance, inspection and maintenance work, and the replacement of units and parts. As President Boris Yeltsin has already emphasized, Russia is taking responsibility for guaranteeing Ukraine's nuclear security.

Describing the position of the Republic of Belarus, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev noted that "everything here has already been decided; Belarus has ratified all agreements on nuclear weapons, and all that remains is to specify the schedule for their removal from Belarusian territory and their subsequent destruction."

Kazakhstan's position is near to that of Belarus. Kazakhstan's minister of defense has proposed to Russia a bilateral examination of the question of the procedure for destroying the nuclear weapons located on this state's territory, and this question will be resolved in the near future.

As concerns the draft agreement on specifying the Strategic Forces' composition, Minister of Defense Grachev assesses that it has still not been sufficiently worked out. Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan must bilaterally specify what "Strategic Forces" means. About a month may be spent on this. When the list of combined units and units coming under this definition has been drawn up, it could be submitted for discussion at the next Council of Heads of State session, the Russian minister of defense said.

Speaking about the agreement on the use of satellite communications for military purposes, Army Gen. Grachev noted that this draft is not in the interests of the Russian Ministry of Defense. "We consider that space communications facilities should be used on the basis of bilateral accords with the interested CIS states. The Military-Space Forces are Russian forces," the minister emphasized.

Grachev said that the Russian delegation agreed with the draft agreement on long-range navigation support services, but on the condition of proportional financial contribution by all CIS states for this program.

The Russian minister of defense also expressed his opinion on the problem of bringing the Commonwealth states' military legislations in line with each other. We supported the decision to submit this question for the Interparliamentary Assembly's scrutiny, he said.

Touching on the problem of using budgetary appropriations to maintain the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command, Grachev emphasized that Russia is ready to approve the report which has been submitted, but at the same time suggested that the High Command should try and implement the agreement regulating the independent states' transfers of contributions for its maintenance. Unfortunately, several Commonwealth member states, specifically Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine, have yet to transfer the agreed sums to the relevant account.

In reply to the correspondents' question about the need to preserve the Commonwealth's common defense structures, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev said: "We remain optimistic and believe that any Commonwealth, even if it comprises only the six states which signed the Treaty on Collective Security in Tashkent, will remain intact. Many Commonwealth member states clearly realize that they cannot create their own army or a system to guarantee their national security on their own. Their attempt for a rapprochement with Russia is already evident. If they show that they have an interest in cooperating, Russia is ready for a dialogue as equals. We have always advocated and will continue to advocate a unified system of collective security."

All-Union Congress of Communists Planned

LD2501182193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1552 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—The Consultative Council of the parties of communist and socialist orientation, operating on the territory of the former USSR, discussed during the past week-end problems connected with the preparation of an All-Union Congress of Communists. A final decision on the date of the congress will be made at the next session of the council, which is scheduled for February 20.

In the opinion of participants in the session of the Political Consultative Commission, the congress of communists will become an authorized body of all parties and movements of communist and socialist orientation.

It is the third session of the Political Consultative Committee. The previous ones were held in Minsk in September 1992 and in Kiev last December.

The recent session was attended by representatives of the Russian Party of Communists, the Russian Communist Workers' Party, the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), the Socialist Party of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Party of Communists, the Socialist Party of Moldova and the Communist Party of Working People of the Dniester Region.

Participants in the session were negative in their attitude to the 29th CPSU congress scheduled for the beginning of March, this year. It is planned to be held by the unregistered "CPSU Organising Committee" headed by former members of the CPSU Central Committee Aleksey Prigarin and Richard Kosolapov.

Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian Banks Sign Agreement

PM2501151793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 1

[Nikolay Gorlov report: "Banks of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus Pool Their Efforts"]

[Text] An agreement on collaboration and cooperation between the three largest commercial banks—Russia's Promstroybank (Moscow), Ukraine's Prominvestbank, and the Belpromstroybank (Minsk)—was signed in Kiev 20 January. Its aim is to coordinate banking activity in the interests of stabilizing the economies of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Belarus, and increasing the efficiency of the banking service of the national economy, including normalizing accounts between enterprises.

The agreement also provides for the offer of credit support on a consortium basis for routine production and investment activity at enterprises in the national economy's base sectors, the coordination of activity to attract foreign investment into the economies of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, joint work on these states' stock markets, the creation and introduction of new automated banking technologies, and the exchange of business information.

The agreement is open to any industrial construction bank in the countries of the Commonwealth and its immediate neighbors.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Jan

LD2601112393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1013 GMT 26 Jan 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

Moscow January 26 TASS—The press continues to comment on the results of the CIS summit in Minsk. Its conclusions are rather contradictory. The "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA," for instance, believes that the summit has "yielded practically nothing." Noting the importance of the documents adopted in the Belarusian capital, particularly the CIS charter, which was signed by seven members of the Commonwealth, the newspaper continues: "Statements on the formation of a strong integrational nucleus within the CIS appear to be somewhat exaggerated. In fact, we are witnessing a gradual, but steady disintegration of this integrational core."

"Hence," the newspaper notes, "the Minsk summit has finally brought out, judging by the attitude of its participants to the CIS Charter, the true proponents of integration and civilised divorce. It is quite easy to predict the further course of events. Russia will most certainly start expanding cooperation within the 'Seven,' while independent Ukraine, Moldova and Turkmenia will have to stand the test of durability."

The newspaper "PRAVDA" compares the Commonwealth of Independent States after the Minsk summit with a river "flowing in both directions." "The Minsk summit," the newspaper stresses, "has revealed the dramatism of the situation within the CIS. Two tendencies had emerged on CIS territory from the moment of its inception. The first one is Gaydarisation and Ukrainisation. This tendency has broken up the economic space and the rouble zone. It was imposed upon the Commonwealth most ruthlessly. The second tendency was to save the economic space and the integrational ties, to create a true and effective Commonwealth."

"Unfortunately," the newspaper concludes, "the first tendency, that is Gaydarisation and Ukrainisation, is still in force." It leads the CIS away from the course pursued by all the civilised world.

In the opinion of the army newspaper "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA," the Minsk summit has laid a solid foundation for promoting closer relations among CIS countries in the future." Commenting on the refusal of Ukraine, Moldova and Turkmenia to sign the CIS Charter, the newspaper notes: "One cannot have only rights without any responsibilities. If a state expects to get preferences from the Commonwealth, it must obviously delegate some of its rights to it."

The newspaper "TRUD" claims that the Minsk summit has "given rise to new hopes." Analysing the documents, adopted by the summit, it notes that "a certain shift has occurred during the Minsk meeting from illusions to reality. Political ambitions are being overcome, even though gradually and cautiously. It is gradually being understood that there is no absolutely sterile independence in this world of modern communications—economic, political, informational and psychologic."

"The Tbilisi incident was timed for the visit of the Russian government delegation" to Georgia, which was to conduct talks on a Russo-Georgian treaty of friendship, cooperation and good- neighbourly relations between Russia and Georgia. This is claimed by the "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA," which comments on the shooting of two Russian frontier guards by Georgian raiders on the territory of a frontier guard unit in Tbilisi. The newspaper believes that "somebody wanted to torpedo the negotiations or at least to warn Shevardnadze and his supporters that they will have to reckon with an alternative stand on relations with Russia."

Under the title "On the brink of a chasm—balancing on a narrow and misty path," the newspaper "TRUD" carries an article by political analyst Vita'iy Golovachev, who comments on the report recently released by the Russian Statistical Board on the level of prices in the country. "The report," Golovachev writes, "testifies to growing negative inflationary tendencies and skyrocketing consumer prices." The analyst says that growing prices hit hard at the population. Life is becoming

increasingly difficult for all the poorer sections of Russian society, now numbering more than 40 millions. He notes the sharp stratification of the Russian population. "In expert opinion," Golovachev notes, "we are now witnessing an erosion of the middle class, most of which is joining the steadily expanding low-income sections. The unconcealed luxury of the nouveau riches is in glaring contrast to this process."

Yeltsin on U.S. Trend To 'Dictate' Terms to Iraq, Yugoslavia

OW2501172493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboinokov, and I. Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin of Russia has said that he sensed a trend for the U.S. to dictate its terms, particularly in regard to the situation in Iraq and Yugoslavia. Addressing Russian and Indian journalists in Moscow on Monday [25 January], the president said that Russia's attitude to developments in and around those countries differs from the one taken by the USA.

"We stand in particular for a political dialogue with the Iraqi leadership," said Yeltsin. "It seems to me that the new American president intends to follow a similar policy."

Clinton Shows No 'Hurry' for Summit With Yeltsin

PM2601113793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Russian and U.S. Presidents Reach Accords on Summit"]

[Text] Washington—President Boris Yeltsin and President Bill Clinton have reached an accord in principle to hold a U.S.-Russian summit meeting. During their 30-minute telephone conversation last Saturday they also agreed that Secretary of State Christopher and Foreign Minister Kozyrev would arrange the details.

It is still not at all clear when and where the meeting will take place, what will be on its agenda, and what package of documents will be signed. As far as I understand it, the Russian president's office said that Yeltsin and Clinton will meet in some third country. This statement was in effect repudiated by Clinton's Press Secretary Margaret Myers, who told journalists that no decision on the time or place has as yet been made.

The U.S. President is in no particular hurry for the meeting: First, because he has promised voters to tackle "domestic" problems above all, and economic problems in particular. As it is, Clinton has already dragged out the preparation of his administration's economic program, which was originally scheduled for completion virtually the day after Clinton took up office, but which will now hardly be submitted before mid-February.

Second, it is clear that, without this program and without knowing specifically how much money is going where, Clinton will be simply unproductive at the meeting with Yeltsin, who, as everyone in Washington—and Moscow too—is perfectly well aware, does not want a summit so much in order to discuss the situation in various parts of the world as to find out what the United States can and is prepared to do now to help Russia with its reforms.

Third, the new administration's policy toward Russia has not yet been formulated.

Like his predecessor, the new U.S. President wholly supports reforms in Russia. Bill Clinton reaffirmed this during his conversation with Yeltsin Saturday. But the question that can now be heard with increasing frequency in the corridors of power in Washington concerns the strategy behind this support.

The article by THE NEW YORK TIMES' Moscow correspondent Serge Schmemann in Sunday's issue reflects—to some extent—the sentiments and views that Washington may run up against.

"Ultimately," the correspondent remarked, "the struggle for power within the Russian leadership is not so much a fight to the death between democrats and reactionaries as a tactical tug-of-war between the advocates of shock therapy and the 'gradualists.'"

In Schmemann's viewpoint, which—and I would like to particularly stress this—can be heard these days in Washington, "the political tournament" under way in Moscow does not necessarily require the United States to take a particular side. First, it is not clear who has the best chances of success—the advocates of shock therapy or the "gradualists." Second, Yeltsin himself has not made a clear choice. Third, Washington will hardly be able to apply any pressure even if it does have a favorite in this tournament.

I therefore think that, no matter how vigorously Yeltsin presses for it, for the time being Clinton will not be in any hurry for a summit.

Clinton's Policies Compared With Nixon's

PM2501150193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 7

[Vladimir Kuznechevskiy "Viewpoint" article: "The United States of the 21st Century Is a Renewed America. Does Richard Nixon's Fate Await Bill Clinton?"]

[Excerpts] The new, 42d President of the United States ceremonially entered the White House in Washington 20 January and took an oath to loyally serve U.S. society. What kind of society?

This is no idle question. What can account for the fact that only quite recently, during the Persian Gulf war, the popularity of George Bush's administration was fantastically high in U.S. public opinion? His rating stood at over 90 percent—which no U.S. president had achieved before. But last November the same U.S. people rejected their idol. What had changed in such a short time? And in such a short span [za korotkiy pi]?

Bill Clinton won the election by offering the U.S. people a political platform which attached paramount importance to the interests of the national economy, the struggle against unemployment, the lowering of taxes, radical measures to develop the infrastructure, the revival of cities, the improvement of the system of higher education, the development of science and advanced technologies, the development of programs to train workers in new professions and the funding of this process, and the habitat's protection from industrial activity. In the foreign economic and political spheres Clinton formulated his program with the utmost brevity: "Aid for America itself, not for foreign states."

His entire election platform can be summed up in the following three words—national American patriotism. Right from the start the main positions of this platform were closest to the most mass class in America—the middle class.

The initial analyses published in this connection show that the majority of commentators attribute this circumstance to the ending of the "Cold War," the breakup of the USSR, and the disintegration of communist ideology as a factor in international relations.

This is largely and really so. For some reason, however, no one notices the fact that U.S. society is making its second attempt in the past quarter-century to face up to its own problems, rather than primarily world problems. The first attempt was linked with the name of Richard Nixon. He also entered the White House on a platform of national patriotism in 1968 and, on announcing his candidacy for a second term in 1972, he literally routed his rival, the Democrat McGovern. All of America seemed to be backing Nixon. But suddenly, 18 months later, he quit his post a criminal.

Acceding to the presidency under conditions of the protracted war in Vietnam, which entailed tremendous expenditure, the growing U.S. debt to its allies, and a huge internal debt, Nixon attempted to resolve the problem of the U.S. crisis by focusing attention on internal development.

The first thing he did was to begin preparations to pull the U.S. expeditionary corps out of Vietnam.

Then he attempted to shift part of the cost of surmounting the crisis onto the allies' shoulders. To this end he announced a dollar devaluation in August 1971.

Accepting the recommendations of his financial advisers, Nixon virtually slashed the vast U.S. debt (approximately $100 billion) at a stroke and ensured improved competitiveness for U.S. goods on world markets. By next imposing a 10-percent customs duty on goods imported into the United States and threatening his allies with a trade war and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Europe, Nixon forced the FRG and Japan to revalue the mark and the yen—after which he went down in history as the destroyer of the world structure of currencies, which was founded on the famous Bretton Woods agreement of 1944.

Nixon met with understanding from the U.S. middle class, whose representative he, in fact, was, but he clashed with the true masters of the United States—the leadership of big financial and industrial capital. Nixon did not take into account the fact that, of the $22 billion in profits made by the United States in 1972, only 50 percent was created in production sectors, and the other half in foreign trade and the financial sphere. In other words, by his actions he smashed the unity of U.S. society.

Unity was a fact. It was based on the slogan "Danger threatens America from without," with danger being taken to mean communist expansion around the planet.

Then Nixon attempted to explode that unity by virtually declaring that the interests of the U.S. middle class must be defended here, in the United States, and not throughout the world. The taxpayer at once pricked up his ears, and the ruling elite felt a threat not only to its profits, which it was making outside the United States, but also a threat to its status at home. [passage omitted]

Now, 19 years later, power in the United States has gone to someone who has once again given priority in the administration's policy to virtually the same idea as Richard Nixon advanced. To judge from the election campaign, Clinton sees West Europe and Japan as the United States' chief competitors in the world arena. It is right here, he believes, that what is needed is "new approaches and principles to maximize their own well-being." But it was with precisely this that Nixon began. It was over this that he came a cropper.

Will he succeed in implementing that which caused "tricky Dick" to go bust in the past? For America's ruling elite has, in fact, remained just the same in terms of its composition and character qualities. Does this mean that Clinton can expect the same as Nixon?

Nonetheless, I think not. A very great deal has changed in America's international position. The USSR—the United States' chief opponent—has vanished. Communism, as the chief threat to the foundations of U.S. society, has also gone.

Clinton's victory has shown that, even if U.S. society has not turned completely away from that former ruling elite, in any case this turn has begun.

Of course, there is still no unity between the new ruling elite personified by Clinton and Gore and society, as also shown by the election. Such unity has potentially been laid down, however. If nothing (or no one) hinders the development of events which has become apparent (as was the case with Nixon), it could become a reality, and toward the end of this century America could appear

before the world in a greatly renewed form. So it cannot be ruled out that Clinton will prove to be the leader of 21st-century America.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Profiles U.S. Defense Secretary

PM2601095993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 3

[Mikhail Pogorelyy article: "Les Aspin—Head of the Pentagon"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I had occasion to meet and chat personally with Les Aspin—while he was a congressman, of course. At that time an intense search was under way in Moscow for guidelines for Russia's new military concept, for the formulation of the principles, the fundamentals, of the organizational development of the republic's own Armed Forces. And the head of the U.S. Congress House of Representatives' Armed Services Committee arrived in Moscow in order to reveal the United States' hand for its future policy in the defense sphere. In order to convince us that the United States should be taken into account in this process not as a potential adversary but as a partner—and, in the long-term, perhaps even as an ally.

Congressman Aspin handled the strategic terminology with assurance and demonstrated profound knowledge of military-political realities—not only in our two countries but also on a worldwide scale—and corroborated them appropriately and accurately with numerical computations. When I asked him where he had acquired such profound knowledge, Aspin, craftily screwing up his rather cold, pale blue eyes, replied that his aids had "pumped him up." Here he was obviously being modest. According to the testimony of THE NEW YORK TIMES, Les Aspin is himself distinguished by an ability to think "in deep analytical constructions and scenarios, as if imagining the world as a gigantic brainteaser and trying to join its parts in different combinations...."

In some sense it is easier for the new U.S. secretary of defense than for his predecessors. After all, he has taken in hand a fully grown child, having personally participated in its upbringing in a most active way for almost a quarter of a century in his capacity as legislator. His activity helped to shape the modern image of the Armed Forces, recruited on an entirely voluntary basis. He voted for (or against) equipping the Army, Air Force, and Navy with various weapons systems. Hence today Les Aspin probably knows much better than others in the United States the strong and weak sides of its Armed Forces. And he clearly perceives the paths of their future development and his own tasks in this matter.

So far, the head of the Pentagon has singled out two top priority tasks. First, to preserve the high combat readiness of the troops and naval forces, the quality standards of personnel, and the level of equipment of the Armed Forces in the period of their reduction (today 1.8 million Americans are "under arms"; within two years this figure is due to be reduced by 200,000, and ultimately it is not to exceed 1.4 million men). Second, to bring the U.S. war machine into line with the demands of a new era, in which there is no global confrontation of two worlds or two systems. But the danger of regional conflicts or the unpleasant possibility of the "spread" of nuclear weapons have not been eliminated, and the reform processes in the young states which have emerged in the place of the Soviet Union, in the opinion of the new Pentagon chief, have not yet become irreversible.

On the strength of these factors, things will probably be more complex for the new minister than for other leaders of the U.S. Department of Defense. Over more than four decades, in the years of great confrontation, there was more clarity; everything (including military organizational development) moved along according to a fairly unambiguous scenario. Now the beaten track is coming to an end. Ahead is an unexplored virgin land, and a path is always harder for those who tread it first.

Literally within the last few months regional problems have begun to snowball. The most acute of them are the Iraq-Near East and the Yugoslav-Balkans problems. Moreover, the precedents set by engaging troops in humanitarian actions (the CIS, the Kurds in Northern Iraq, Somalia—on a rising scale) are clearly not exhausted; quite the contrary, in fact. There is also an obviously new trend for the formation of multinational multilateral forces to solve the global tasks of the international community. Should such operations be supported? Up to 90 percent of future military conflicts will be solved with the aid of multinational contingents, Aspin believes. Therefore the United States should assume leadership in the formation and employment of these contingents, he says, pursuing this idea. But such prospects should not be relied on excessively, so as not to find oneself too closely bound to allies, whereby the national security of the United States would depend entirely on their good will. Thus there is plenty for the head of the Pentagon to "wrack his brains" over—there are sufficient brain-teasers in today's world.

As a matter of fact, judging by everything, Les Aspin can seriously count on skilled assistance from the Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the top U.S. generals. Despite the fact that he can sometimes actually joke about the generals, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES remarked recently, Aspin always carefully considers the true requirements of the military establishment (without being under its thumb, however)! They are united in the belief that "America is a force bringing good to the world." Without, actually, always bothering to find out whether the world wants this good thing when and where its "benefactor" wants it....

During the Senate hearings to confirm his candidacy Les Aspin several times avoided direct answers to penetrating questions, referring (justifiably, as it happens) to the fact that the administration as a whole has yet to elaborate a unified stance on a number of problems. All

the same he clearly intimated that he advocates continuing Bush's hard line against Iraq. Aspin does not approve of the prospect of using U.S. land forces to intervene in the republics of the former Yugoslavia.

It is also well known that, while in Congress, Les Aspin opposed the deployment of a number of costly weapons systems, such as the B-2 bomber. While championing the reduction of the dependency of U.S. defense on nuclear weapons, he nonetheless believes that "it is somewhat premature to claim that the strategic triad complex is obsolete." Aspin has expressed sharp criticism over a long period of time of the space-based SDI program, but has supported the idea of amending the 1972 ABM Treaty to enable the United States and Russia to deploy respectively between two and four, and "not less than six," facilities on their territories for defense against unpremeditated or mistaken missile launches.

But this should be borne in mind: Whatever the personal views of Les Aspin, Secretary Aspin will implement the policy of the head of the executive branch and supreme commander in chief—President Clinton. And the latter said in his inaugural speech: "We will act by peaceful diplomacy where it is possible, and by force where it is necessary."

Commentary on 'Tough' U.S. Stance Against Iraq

LD2501154393 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Valentin Gorkayev commentary]

[Text] The United States limited air strikes against the Iraqi sites continue and become very frequent. Commentary is by Valentin Gorkayev.

Growing tensions around Iraq have deliberately coincided with the change of the administration in Washington. Some see in it Saddam Husayn's desire to check the strength of the Clinton team. Others, the old administration's desire to present the new government with a fait accompli and force it to continue the old policies.

Well, Mr. Clinton's position is clear. The Chief of the White House department for contacts with the public and the media, George Stephanopoulos, says that the President intends to maintain a tough position towards Iraq. The toughness seems to have had its effect. Iraq has withdrawn its objections for the United Nations planes' passage over its territory and the United Nations inspectors have resumed their activities in the country and they say they have no complaints and they may check any site at any point of Iraq. For instance, it's reported that a team of United Nations inspectors has resumed work on the elimination of chemical weapons at a plant situated 65 miles to the north-west of Baghdad.

Moreover, the Iraqi vice president, Taha Yasin Ramadan, has said that Baghdad wishes sincerely to resolve all disputes with the world community and individual states through a dialogue. The Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, reports the Egyptian newspaper 'Al-HAYAT AL-MASRIYYAT', has sent a message to Bill Clinton where he expressed his interest in developing constructive relations with the United States. Should the United States agree, the talks would involve three problems. That's the establishment of cooperation between the two countries, full control over the Iraqi nuclear program and the observance of the principle of neighborliness with Kuwait. If the report is correct we may see the outline of a basis for the negotiations process.

Unfortunately however, military incidents, that's as is known, could easily get out of control and they could continue. Each side has its own version of what has happened and mistakes may cause a dangerous escalation. For instance, the Pentagon official representative has admitted that last Saturday the incident was not caused by Iraq's provocative actions against American planes. As became known, the pilot was mistaken to believe that light flashes on the earth were the anti-aircraft shelling.

How to prevent the possible escalation of hostilities? It seems it is necessary to involve the United Nations mechanisms which Russia has been appealing for.

Intelligence Service's Ties With CIA, FBI Viewed

LD2501191893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Politics is not the only thing that holds mystery; for example, mystery is often a characteristic of special services activities. ITAR-TASS reported this week that the first ever official visit of Russian foreign intelligence officials to the United States has ended. Igor Ambrosov comments on the results of this not entirely ordinary visit:

[Ambrosov] The highlights of the agenda of the Russian intelligence officers' visit to the United States were meetings with the House of Representatives Select Committee on Intelligence, the FBI, and their U.S. counterparts.

Let us consider this. As is well known, the CIA is the U.S. equivalent of the Russian foreign intelligence service. Although the ITAR-TASS report does not say this in so many words, one can clearly read between the lines that the Russian intelligence officers were not allowed into the CIA. It would seem that there were not actually any meetings with their U.S. counterparts.

This is logical from the U.S. point of view. If we can imagine the hunter and the hunted, in the territory of every country, the counterintelligence of that country is the hunter and the intelligence officer of a foreign country is the game. Thus, the FBI were the main partners in talks with the delegation of our foreign intelligence service—that is, the animals talked with the hunters about cooperation.

In what areas? If we have a look at the ITAR-TASS report, we will see that as a result of this visit, agreement was reached—I quote—that balanced cooperation should be developed between the special services of the two countries in tackling such problems as the spread of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, drug smuggling, and organized crime.

However, in accordance with the Russian law on the federal bodies of state security, the problems about which cooperation was agreed by the Russian intelligence service and the U.S. counterintelligence service lie within the province of a different Russian special service, namely the Ministry of Security. The Ministry of Security, which has read, as I have, the ITAR-TASS report, now also wants to go to the United States and visit the FBI—which, one can say, looks more logical for this Ministry than it did for the intelligence service—and to come to agreements on cooperation in the same areas.

I am not speaking about my own feelings as a taxpayer when money is taken from my pocket twice for one and the same thing. I am just very happy for U.S. taxpayers, because when the FBI is tackling their problems it will be helped by all the Russian special services, thus saving money for the FBI.

As for the CIA, to judge from its previous conduct, it will go on not spending a cent on receiving delegations of Russian special services which are eager to cooperate with it. In the end, these cents will be useful to the CIA in solving its traditional tasks, if we may call them that.

Yeltsin Previews Visit to India

LD2501221693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2030 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report on news conference by President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on 25 January, including recorded segments of Yeltsin remarks]

[Text] [Yeltsin] Respected ladies and gentlemen, the first official visit by a Russian Federation president to the Republic of India begins the day after tomorrow. Its task is to lay the foundations for relations of a qualitatively new type, with all the positive elements in the relations of our countries and peoples, which had been accumulated up to this point, being preserved. The potential and the goodwill accumulated over previous years will be preserved intact on both sides.

Our countries' interests coincide on the main issues. We firmly adhere to democratic principles. One of the main components in both our countries' foreign policy is the principle of upholding territorial integrity. Relations between Russia and India have not been clouded a single time by direct struggle or confrontation, throughout their entire history. Our countries are natural partners and need one another both politically and economically. This is the basis of the strength and the stability of our relations.

My first meeting with Indian Prime Minister Mr. Rao took place in January last year. As a result of the intensive contacts which followed on from this, a treaty on friendship and cooperation has now been prepared, as well as a number of agreements reinforcing the accords reached on cooperation in a number of key spheres. These documents are to be signed in Delhi, including the treaty which is to be signed at the summit.

My forthcoming visit to India should be seen as a major demarche by this great country and as part of our efforts toward forming Russia's new Asian policies. We are against bloc policy and in favor of cooperation and partnership. The strengthening of cooperation between Russia and India will, I am sure, exert a profound and positive influence on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and in the world as a whole.

The changes in the economic realities in both countries will create temporary difficulties in the sphere of the development of trade and economic links. I am convinced that these difficulties are surmountable and will largely be surmounted during my visit and talks. The visit will lay solid foundations for mutually advantageous cooperation in the long term. We are prepared to continue giving technical and economic assistance in developing the key sectors of industry in India—power engineering facilities, ferrous metallurgical enterprises, the coal industry, and oil export.

Of course, there are some differences in the sides' positions, in approaches toward resolving the problems of paying off debts. I think, however, that there are constructive suggestions and that we are bound to have these issues removed in the course of the visit, since they seriously affect the volume of trade and economic ties between our two countries. One can say that the volume of trade and economic ties between India and the former Soviet Union was cut by half over the past few years, due to the fact that these problems remained unresolved. Naturally, we reckon that India will adopt an even-handed approach toward the search for a solution of these problems.

We are ready to expand cooperation with India in the area of exploring and mastering space. Let me recall that we have already concluded a contract for deliveries, starting in 1994, of cryogenic booster sets [kriogennyy razgonnyy blok] and even though the West and, especially, the United States regard this contract with apprehension, I would like to use this opportunity to confirm our desire to strictly adhere to the accords that have been reached. Please go ahead with your questions.

[Announcer] Indian journalists were interested most of all in the president's position with regard to the relations between our countries. Recently numerous high officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed very contradictory views. Some think that it is unthinkable for India to take priority over other Eastern countries in its

relations with Russia. Others are convinced that India has been and ought to remain a constant factor of the Russian foreign policy.

[Yeltsin] Earlier it used always to be noted that special relations exist between India and the former Soviet Union. Of what did these special relations consist? In the fact that at that time Moscow regarded India as a partner, in the capacity of a counterweight against the United States and Beijing. We want healthy and mutually advantageous relations with India, not directed against any third country at all. We do not want any axis, nor do we want triangles, nor do we want any blocs, nor do we want any sort of polygons—no, we do not desire a union with India against any one or two countries.

[Announcer] There is no doubt that the restoration and expansion of political and economic relations with India is a topical task for today. However, taking account of the fact that the visit to India will be a continuation of a whole series of presidential trips to the East, journalists expressed a supposition that such a clear enthusiasm of Russian diplomacy for the eastern direction can give rise to some jealousy in the West.

[Yeltsin] Well, you know that Russia's independent foreign policy started with the West. It started with the United States, and we feel that this was justified. We had to lay the main foundation—that is, to prepare a detailed treaty on the global reduction and elimination of strategic nuclear weapons, on the basis of which it is easier, afterwards, to build relations with any country, be it from the West or East, Europe or Asia. As a result of such a desire to balance policy with the West and East and Europe and Asia, we—especially taking account of major, great states such as China, and India, and, in economic terms very strong states such as South Korea, and I think that the time will also come, the postponed visit to Japan, it balances this policy. [sentence as heard] At present, for the time being, we do not hear jealous exclamations from the West. Although, one cannot fail to agree with you—they may appear.

[Announcer] The next question to the president concerned the economic aspect of the forthcoming talks in Delhi. Is it possible to expect that at the end of the visit, trade turnover between Russia and India will be restored if only at the level which existed under the USSR?

[Yeltsin] Of course, at once to restore such a volume—and in 1990 it was $5.5 billion, the overall trade turnover between India and the former Soviet, at present it is 3 [billion], to restore this at once is of course impossible. But to add to this figure in 1993 is without question possible and necessary. India is a country with enormous potential opportunities—enormous. Russia also has an enormous market. We are interested in the development of cooperation and contacts with each other—very interested. We are interested in India being a prosperous, whole country and state. We are interested in this, inasmuch as it is, of course, a great country and has influence both on politics in the Asia-Pacific region, and on world politics as a whole.

[Announcer] The last question at the news conference was whether Russia will seek to exert pressure on Delhi for India to join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

[Yeltsin] A short question and a short answer. This issue does not figure on the agenda of the summit talks in India.

Further on India Visit, Tajikistan, Iraq

LD2501200393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The president of Russia held a news conference today on his upcoming visit to India. The visit will begin on 27 January, and it is expected that it will form a stage in the formation by Russia of a new policy in the Asian region.

Speaking to journalists, Russia's President Boris Yeltsin stressed that during his visit to India, he was planning to sign a friendship and cooperation treaty and also a minimum of 10 agreements in key areas. They should form the foundation for a qualitatively new stage in the development of bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Replying to journalists' questions, Boris Yeltsin voiced concern over the tense situation in a number of regions both in the CIS and in the world in general. He gave a high appraisal of the Minsk agreements to place peacemaking troops in Tajikistan and to strengthen the Tajik-Afghan border.

Dwelling on the situation regarding Iraq at the request of the "NOVOSTI" program, the president noted that Russia complied with the decisions of the UN Security Council. Yeltsin believes that a political dialogue has to be conducted with Iraq. Judging by the statements of President Clinton, the United States also intends to pursue such a policy, Boris Yeltsin stressed.

Ministry Official on Yeltsin's India Visit

LD2601112593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0910 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Interview with Aleksandr Alekseyev, Foreign Ministry official, by unidentified Radio Moscow correspondent in Russian, fading into English translation; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Next Wednesday through Friday [27-29 January] Russian President Yeltsin will be visiting India. The head of the South Asian desk of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Aleksandr Alekseyev, spoke to a reporter for Radio Moscow:

[Alekseyev] The schedule of the forthcoming visit embraces a variety of events. Mr. Yeltsin and Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao will hold an unhurried eye to eye discussion. The two leaders and their ministers will meet for talks. Boris Yeltsin will be expected to meet with the Indian president and vice president. And finally Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Rao will sign a Russian-Indian treaty on friendship and cooperation.

[Correspondent] This political document will lay the legal foundation for multi-faceted bilateral relations and replace the Soviet-Indian treaty of 1971.

[Alekseyev] The new treaty is far-reaching. It contains articles on cooperation on environmental protection, health care and social security. It calls for joint anti-crime efforts, including combating terrorism and drug trafficking. And that's where it differs from the treaty of 1971. The new document widens the scope of bilateral cooperation.

[Correspondent] Nonetheless there is one aspect in which it narrows the field of application. The new document envisages no consultations in case of threat to Russia's or India's security. India used to interpret that provision of the treaty of 1971 as a reciprocally binding pledge of military aid in emergency situations.

[Alekseyev] Russia feels that now that the situation differs drastically from the past, reluctancy to drop this provision would seem an anachronism. Russian-Indian relations were in the past charged with pathos of struggle against imperialism. They were much too biased, now they come to be different. They are changing to adjust to the global change that followed the end of the Cold War. Exclusion from the treaty of the provision for military assistance is proof of this.

[Correspondent] Nonetheless no bilateral political talks, including the forthcoming summit, can drop the problem of security from its agenda

[Alekseyev] The forthcoming summit will take note of security in west and south Asia. It will focus on issues whose solution is to ensure stability in the newly independent Central Asian republics. Incidentally the passage of documents which are to be signed during Mr. Yeltsin's visit to New Delhi includes a protocol on bilateral consultations. It says the two countries remain committed to joint efforts for international security and peace.

[Correspondent] Up to 15 documents will be signed in Delhi, including agreements on cooperation and culture, research and information, and between the Russian and Indian law and order bodies. A few documents will be expected to promote cooperation in the field of military technology.

[Alekseyev] It's no secret that cooperation in this sphere leaves much to be desired. India has found itself in dire need of spare parts for Soviet-made army hardware. This serious problem is waiting for a solution. Besides India would be interested in expanding contacts in the field of military production and acquiring Russian technologies. Russia would be (?willing) to meet its Indian requests. Signs are that this will find reflection in the documents which are to be signed in New Delhi.

[Correspondent] A few agreements are designed to give a boost to bilateral trade and economic relations. Sad to say this field also leaves much to be desired. Last year India received only a (?thirtieth) part of crude oil Russia had been expected to deliver under an intergovernmental trade protocol. No way denying it, interstate agreements for bilateral trade are not met. On the other hand Aleksandr Alekseyev feels the situation is better than it may seem.

[Alekseyev] There are signs of positive change now that Russian producers have launched direct contacts with customers in India. Unlike inter-government agreements, agreements between direct partners are met to the letter. The turnover of trade under these agreements has grown more than fourfold, which means this kind of trade is to be encouraged. It owns the future. The forthcoming talks will doubtlessly focus on this as well.

[Correspondent] Russian aid in the construction of big industrial facilities in India will also be discussed.

[Alekseyev] Agreements in this field were concluded between India and the Soviet Union. Russia, which is acting as the legal successor to the USSR, has no intention of going back on them. It's open to cooperation but feels new reality is to be taken into account. The financial angle of the old agreements is apparently outdated.

[Correspondent] Now that he's been sworn in as a minister of the Indian cabinet Pranab Mukherjee says India is interested in good relations with Russia. It [India] hopes the forthcoming visit by the Russian president will give a boost to bilateral relations. And Aleksandr Alekseyev shares this view.

[Alekseyev] The visit by the Russian president will surely give a new and powerful impetus to the efforts to resolve the problems which cannot help telling on bilateral relations. India and Russia share a long record of good neighborly relations. They share a lot of interests. Both countries would be willing to promote regional stability and ensure regional security. They share a vast experience in trade and economic relations. The personal prosperity of many and many [as heard] both in India and Russia will depend on their future promotion. Neither Moscow nor New Delhi aims to reject the positive experience of time tested bilateral cooperation. And there's every reason to hope that the forthcoming visit will be a success.

Indian Prime Minister Optimistic About Relations

LD2501155593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1451 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] New Delhi January 25 TASS—The Prime Minister of India P.V. Narasimha Rao said that India and Russia can increase interaction, based on the established tradition of understanding and cooperation in both a bilateral and as international context.

Replying to a question by the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Narasimha Rao said that India is waiting for the arrival of Russian President Boris Yeltsin with great interest.

According to the prime minister, the forthcoming visit will make it possible to jointly assess the state of Indo-Russian relations, define their new course of development and exchange views on international problems.

Government To Raise Issue of Sanctions Against Croatia

OW2501172793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboinokov, and I. Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Ministry intends to raise the issue of imposing sanctions against Croatia at the U.N., unless the Republic stops military actions against the Serbs," Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, who monitors "the Yugoslav issue" in Russia's Foreign Ministry, told DP [Diplomatic Panorama]. Russia's envoy to the U.N. "has been instructed accordingly," he said.

According to experts, actions launched by Croatia are capable of disrupting endeavors to reach a settlement in Bosnia-Hercegovina in progress in Geneva.

Moscow is seriously concerned about military operations launched by the Croatian army in Serbian Krajina. Such actions are unacceptable, and the world community must react to them adequately, said Russia's Foreign Ministry in a statement published on Monday [25 January].

According to the statement, "such actions, launched at a time when the possibility of settling the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina became quite real, pose an extremely rash step". This is another link in the chain of Zagreb's violations of the demands of the U.N. Security Council. Croatia has long been ignoring the ban on flights in the air space of Bosnia-Hercegovina; it ships arms to the Republic; Croatian units wage military actions against Muslims in Bosnia.

"The present attempt of the Croatian leadership to resolve the problem of Krajina by military means is particularly deplorable in view of the fact that lately the leaders of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Croatia seemed to be close to reaching mutually-acceptable agreements," Russia's Foreign Ministry said. Besides, the offensive launched by Croatian units on areas under the protection of U.N. forces poses a direct challenge to the U.N. peacemaking mission in former Yugoslavia, the statement said. The intensifying activity of Croatian units in the area where the Russian battalion of the U.N. forces is stationed, and increased shelling of its positions give rise to particular concern.

Foreign Ministry Notes 'Deplorable' Croatian Actions

LD2501170193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1548 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 25 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry has expressed serious concern about the Croatian Army's military operations in Serbian Krajina. A Foreign Ministry statement that was circulated here today says in particular: "Such an action, undertaken at the moment when the possibility of settling the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina has become quite realistic, is an extremely ill-considered step. It has become another link in the chain of violations of UN Security Council requirements by Zagreb. For a long time the Croatian side has been ignoring the ban on flights in the airspace over Bosnia-Hercegovina, deliveries of weapons are being made to this Republic, and Croatian units are carrying out combat actions against Muslims in Bosnia. The present attempt by the Croatian leadership to tackle the problems of Krajina by military means is even more deplorable since the leaders of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia recently seemed to be close to achieving mutually acceptable accords."

The document notes that "an offensive by the Croatian Armed Forces in the areas under the protection of UN forces is a direct challenge to the UN peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslavia."

"Similar actions are unacceptable and should receive an appropriate reaction on the part of the international community," the statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry says.

Press Secretary Denies Yeltsin Visit to Kuwait

LD2501160093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1534 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Jan—Replying to a question from ITAR- TASS, Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary for the Russian president, did not confirm reports that have appeared to the effect that Boris Yeltsin would visit Kuwait in the next few days.

Yeltsin 'Set' To Attend G-7 Meeting in Tokyo

OW2501151093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian foreign ministry representative, Yuriy Kuznetsov, has expressed the opinion that the G-7 nations will invite President Boris Yeltsin to attend their annual meeting in Tokyo from July 7-9 "within days, if not hours."

Kuznetsov, the head of the Foreign Ministry's second Asian and Pacific Department, stressed, in an interview with Interfax, that the Russian President seemed "set to travel to Tokyo."

The diplomat, who is a member of the Russian delegation at governmental talks with Japan, on economic and trade collaboration, pointed out that the Japanese were making strong indications that the G-7 leaders would give every consideration to Russia's economic situation and the granting of assistance. "This will be one of the Tokyo summit's main themes," Kuznetsov said.

He also said that, neither the cancellation of the Russian President's official visit to Tokyo last fall, nor the territorial dispute, had been discussed at the governmental talks in Tokyo. The Japanese were, nevertheless, still keen for President Yeltsin to make this visit before the G-7 summit, although they made no direct link between the two issues.

Yuriy Kuznetsov said that the difficulties being encountered in economic and trade collaboration between the two nations included last year's estimated 28 per cent fall in trade turnover. The debts owed by Russian associations to Japanese firms were, he said, an acute problem.

The Russian Foreign Ministry's representative did, nevertheless, express the hope that the visit to Moscow by Japan's Deputy Foreign Trade and Industry Minister, February 2, would help resolve these problems.

More of the interview is published in the January 25th issue of "Diplomatic Panorama".

Kozyrev Remarks on 'Aggressive Nationalism'

OW2501184593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboinokov, and I. Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Aggressive nationalism," of which the crisis in former Yugoslavia is an example, can become no less dangerous than the "cold war," said Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, in Moscow on Monday after talks with Max Van der Stool, CSCE High Commissioner for Refugees. As if elaborating on the theme of "aggressive nationalism," Kozyrev qualified the dispatch of several "Zhirinovsky hawks" to Baghdad on Sunday as "an imprudent adventure."

Russia is concerned about the observance of human rights in the three Baltic countries, but "to differring extents," said the head of Russian diplomacy. According to him, this relates particularly to the rights of the Russian-speaking population. Kozyrev described his talks with Van der Stool as "useful and very serious."

For his part, Van der Stool, who visited Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania recently, said that it's premature for him to make conclusions as to how the rights of ethnic minorities are observed there.

Nevertheless he said he is confident that it's possible to find a solution to problems with the good will of all countries. His impression is, said the CSCE High Commissioner, that ordinary people living in the Baltic states maintain close contacts between each other, and that there are no serious conflicts between the Russian-speakers and other citizens. According to him, this is reassuring.

Kozyrev's adviser Aleksandr Blokhin, who is a member of Russia's Parliament, took part in the talks. MP Sergey Baburin was to join the talks also, he told newsmen. However, despite his promise, the legislator failed to turn up. This shows that some representatives of the opposition defend the Russian- speaking population verbally, but, when the time to act comes, behave differently, said Blokhin.

Kozyrev Meets Nagorno-Karabakh Conference Chairman

LD2501175093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1735 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Monday [25 January] received Mario Raffaelli, chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, on his return from a visit to the conflict zone.

The two men expressed concern over shelling and bombardment of villages and other violations of humanitarian law, the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for Information and the Press, announced. They urged an immediate end to the bloodshed without preliminary conditions and transition to a civilised settlement of contentious issues through negotiations.

Kozyrev and Raffaelli noted the importance of the joint statement by Russian and U.S. presidents on Nagorno-Karabakh on January 3, 1993, and spoke out in favour of the earliest opening of the CSCE Minsk conference involving all interested and warring sides, the earliest preparation of the international agreement to ban use of combat aircraft and rocket-artillery systems in inter-ethnic armed conflicts.

Raffaelli highly assessed Russia's mediation and its contribution to the work of the CSCE Minsk group.

Kunadze To Visit DPRK To Realign Bilateral Relations

OW2601103493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0251 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 25 KYODO—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze will pay a four-day visit to North Korea at the end of the month to hammer out a new basic agreement on bilateral relations, a Russian Foreign Ministry official said Monday [25 January].

"The deputy foreign minister will visit (North Korea) to make preparations for an agreement with North Korea," the official said.

During his stay from January 29 to February 1, Kunadze will discuss the whole spectrum of relations with North Korean officials, the official said.

In Beijing, Western diplomatic sources said the envisaged treaty will replace the Friendship and Assistance Treaty concluded between the former Soviet Union and North Korea in 1961. The treaty's clause about a military alliance that promises automatic intervention by Soviet troops if there is an armed conflict in North Korea is especially "out of step with the times" since Moscow and seoul established diplomatic relations in September 1990, the sources said. Moscow supported Pyongyang in the 1953 Korean war.

During a visit to South Korea last November, Russian President Boris Yeltsin indicated Russia would end the military alliance with Pyongyang.

The negotiations are not only seen as an attempt to revive bilateral relations which have cooled because of Moscow's rapprochement with Seoul, the diplomatic sources said. The two sides are expected to discuss ways to renew trade, which has nearly come to a standstill.

Kunadze's visit to North Korea was originally scheduled for the second half of 1992 but has been postponed three times. It follows a Pyongyang trip in January 1992 by his predecessor Igor Rogachev, who now serves as Russia's ambassador to China.

Talks With Latvia Yield No Accord on Troop Withdrawal

PM2501155393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 1

[Modris Ziyeminsh, Sergey Knyazkov report: "Agreement on Deadlines for Russian Troop Withdrawal From Latvia Not Reached"]

[Text] The latest round of Russian-Latvian interstate talks on the Russian troop withdrawal from Latvian territory ended 24 hours earlier than scheduled.

At the current round of talks the Russian side presented the texts of a number of additional agreements which, according to delegation leader Sergey Zotov, could be regarded supplementary to the main interstate treaty on the Russian troop withdrawal. They are, for instance, agreements on social protection for Russian Federation Ministry of Defense servicemen and pensioners living on the republic's territory, on the utilization of enterprises located on Latvian territory and coming under Russian Armed Forces control, on ethnic minorities and the protection of their rights, on border crossing procedure during the troop withdrawal, and some others.

Valeriy Nesterushkin, adviser to the Russian ambassador in Latvia, noted in a conversation with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent that it had nevertheless been possible during the talks to progress in certain directions toward the elaboration of agreed decisions. In particular, to sign three agreements regulating the use of railroad transport, communications, mail, and other services by Russian troops during their withdrawal from Latvia. However, it was not possible to agree on the withdrawal deadlines (let us recall that the Latvian side is insisting on the end of 1993, while the Russian side is suggesting the end of 1994). The sides were also unable to agree on the real estate being left behind by Russian troops and on social guarantees for Russian Ministry of Defense servicemen and pensioners.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA was told by Imans Viksne, chief of the Eastern sector under the Latvian minister of state, who heads the republic's delegation to the talks, that there were serious differences on the question of the exit from Latvia of servicemen's family members. Latvian delegation leader Janis Dinevic advocated that "independent arbitrators" take part in the talks process when questions concerning the deadlines for the Russian troop withdrawal and Army property are being decided.

Russian delegation leader Sergey Zotov regarded this statement by Riga as an attempt to put pressure on Russia. He stressed that "Russia will not tolerate such an attitude toward it, and attempts to put pressure on the Russian side are a waste of time."

The next round of Russian-Latvian talks will take place in Moscow at the end of February.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Attend Regular Kremlin Meeting

LD2601100893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met in the Kremlin on Tuesday [26 January]. An agenda of their working meeting was not announced.

As is known, the two meet regularly on Tuesdays.

Chernomyrdin To Invite Parliamentary Members to Meetings

OW2501211093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1833 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has had a working conference with his deputies this morning, January 25. A spokesman for the Council of Ministers press center informs Interfax that Monday working meetings, where the participants are outlining their plans for the coming week, are becoming a tradition.

As was reported earlier, another new element in the government's practices have become regular working contacts between the president and the premier each Tuesday. Interfax has learned from the official sources that such meetings, however, do not exclude their working contacts on other week days when need arises.

Viktor Chernomyrdin has added one more new element to the Cabinet procedures: on his initiative, taking part in the government meetings, on a permanent basis, will be some of the Russian parliament officials, such as deputy chairmen of the Supreme Council, as well as chairmen of various parliamentary committees depending on the issues addressed at the meeting. Under Yegor Gaydar, as Acting Chairman of the Council of Ministers, representatives of the RF parliament were not regularly taking part in the work of the government. The number of parliamentarians to attend such sessions regularly has been extended. In addition, the parliamentarians have been given the right to actively participate in the discussions.

Viktor Chernomyrdin is also inviting Yuriy Osipov, President of the Russian Academy of Science, to take part in some of the government meetings.

At the next cabinet meeting is planned for Wednesday, January 27. There is only one issue on the agenda, the draft of the state program for radiation rehabilitation in the Ural region and measures to aid those suffering there for the period until 1995.

The government press center has confirmed the fact that Viktor Chernomyrdin has been invited to make a report at the parliament session on January 28. The press center, however, is still failed to provide a direct answer whether Mr Chernomyrdin will indeed make his report, for the Cabinet has a meeting of its own scheduled for the same date.

According to unofficial sources, the preliminary agenda for the January 28 session of the Russian Supreme Council contains Viktor Chernomyrdin's reports.

Cabinet Meeting Scheduled for 27 Jan

OW2501180793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An assembly of the Russian government, according to confirmed sources, will take place on Wednesday January 27, and not January 28, Interfax learned at the Russian government's press center. (A notice to this effect had been included in the Interfax bulletin from 12:30.) Only one issue is slated for the cabinet meeting to discuss - the draft of the state program for radiation rehabilitation in the Ural region and measures to aid those suffering there for the period up until 1995.

Vice Premiers Empowered To Promulgate 'Binding' Directives

PM2501154393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 1

["Russian Federation Government Directive No. 60-r, Dated Moscow, 15 January 1993"]

[Text] For the purposes of ensuring that the powers of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government are exercised efficiently:

1. Deputy chairmen of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government are to be given the right to promulgate executive-administrative acts, to be referred to as a "Directive of the Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government."

2. Directives of a deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government are to be promulgated in compliance with the current Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation, decrees of the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies and Supreme Soviet, edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president, and decrees and directives of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government.

Directives are promulgated by deputy chairmen of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government

within the limits of their powers and in accordance with the approved distribution of duties between deputy chairmen of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government.

3. The fulfillment of directives of deputy chairmen of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, promulgated on questions within their sphere of competence, is to be binding upon Russian Federation ministries and state committees, other central organs of federal executive power, as well as organs of executive power of republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg within the limits of the powers of the Russian Federation as laid down by the Russian Federation Constitution and current legislation.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin

Trial of August 1991 Coup Figures To Begin 14 Apr

OW2601130293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1244 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The court trial of the organizers of the failed coup d'etat of August 1991 has been scheduled to start on April 14, the deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Court's Military Collegium, Anatoliy Ukolov, said on Tuesday [26 January].

Vladimir Kryuchkov, Dmitriy Yazov, Gennadiy Yanayev, Oleg Baklanov, Valentin Pavlov, and Aleksandr Tizyakov have been released from custody pending the trial without permission to leave Moscow.

The trial will be open and will be presided by the judge and two people's assessors.

During its first round, Ukolov said, 120 people are to give evidence, including Mikhail Gorbachev, Ruslan Khasbulatov, Aleksandr Rutskoy, and former deputies of Kryuchkov and Yazov. However, the collegium decided that, so far, there was no need for any eveidence to be given by President Boris Yeltsin.

The collegium rejected appeals from the defendants and their advocates to quash the case or return it to the Prosecutor's Office for further investigation.

Moscow To Resume Flights to Groznyy

LD2501194393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We have just received a report in our editorial office from Sergey Shakhray, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, and I will tell you about it in full. It says that with a view to normalizing the situation in the North Caucasus region, removing the tension in relations with Chechnya, and trying to accommodate the numerous appeals from inhabitants and the population of the republic, the leadership of the Russian Federation has decided to resume Aeroflot flights from Moscow to Groznyy, twice a week beginning mid-February, on condition that the safety of the passengers and crews be guaranteed by the authorities of the Chechen Republic.

A fundamental decision has been taken by the leadership of the Russian Federation to finance the payment of pensions and benefits to the population of Chechnya and Ingushetia. This decision will affect more than 50,000 people in all. Unfortunately, at the end of 1992 revenues from deductions from enterprises in Chechnya and Ingushetia for these purposes were exceeded by approximately 550 million rubles [R] [sentence as heard]. If this tendency continues, experts estimate that in the first quarter of this year debts could rise to R2 billion, and emphasis is again laid on the need to normalize relations between Chechnya and the Russian Federation as quickly as possible and to establish the normal functioning of the economy, so that pensioners and invalids will not suffer.

Rumyantsev Ponders Referendum Problems

PM2501115793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jan 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Article by Constitutional Commission Secretary Oleg Rumyantsev: "Unifying Idea Lost. Will The Referendum Revive It?"]

[Text] The post-Congress idyll did not last long. As soon as the New Year and Christmas celebrations were over, stormy consultations began on questions concerning the holding of the all-Russian referendum 11 April 1993.

The following conclusion can be drawn from reflections that were made: We will come up against **a number** of extremely **serious difficulties** in the preparation for the referendum. Almost everyone perceives a threat looming over us.

First of all there is a danger of a serious conflict between the federal power and the power elites of a number of republics within Russia. A number of republic leaders have already announced that they do not want to hold a referendum on their territory. Others are putting forward demands for the referendum which they know are unacceptable in a federative state, demands which testify to the danger of turning Russia into an interstate formation like the CIS. The current strengthening of national elites is providing them with all the necessary levers for wrecking the vote, which they find not to their liking, launched by the Federation. It is possible that there will be a repeat of the "17 March 1991 effect," when the "Yeltsin issue" became added to the "Gorbachev issue": In that case, "your own" (to a large extent alternative) issue, will be linked to "someone else's"—in other words the Russian—issue.

Second. Serious contradictions are emerging in the approaches of various political forces over the essence of the referendum. Several obvious pairs of **opposite approaches** can be cited.

Some people are saying that a referendum is not necessary, it must be cancelled or boycotted; others are saying that the right of the people to hold a referendum that is essential must not be usurped. Yet others are saying that a referendum will help save Russia from collapse, and overcome separatism and nationalism; no, a referendum would destroy unity once and for all, others object. Some people are declaring that the main issue of the referendum is to whom do the people entrust the adoption of the new Constitution; there is no issue, they are being told in response, because under the existing Basic Law, only the Congress can adopt the new Constitution. One thesis is that the referendum should find an answer to only one question—the question concerning the principles, which cannot be torn apart, which are integral; the opposite thesis is that the people themselves should make a choice about several debatable questions. The principles should be based on a Constitutional Commission draft, some believe; we will fight bitterly against a Constitutional Commission draft no matter what form it takes—these are the irreconcilable exclamations being fired back. The referendum will bring us closer to the adoption of a new Constitution and to legal reform, the former observe; not at all, comes the answer, the referendum will destroy the legal system and reinforce chaos once and for all.

To my mind, if a referendum is held, then a substantive text of the principles of the new Russian Constitution should be submitted to it, approximately in the form envisaged by the Constitutional Commission working group: Ten theses in one single coherent text. The positive aspects include the nonconfrontational nature of the text, which has been prepared on the basis of a draft that has been repeatedly ratified; and its juridical wholeness. Furthermore, only one single question is needed: Do the citizens agree that the new Constitution should be based on these provisions or not? Such a text could form the first section of the new Constitution and thus protect it against the whims of the legislator, by making it difficult to make endless corrections.

But some of those who are campaigning for a referendum have another approach: To hold a referendum on six short fundamental issues.

However, it seems to me that the list of short issues does not constitute the integral principles of the constitutional system; they are confrontational and sharp, and this means that some alternative wording will definitely be added to them. This will split the votes of the electorate and none of the questions will win a majority. In that event the danger of dividing up questions into "Yeltsin's" and "Khasbulatov's" will arise, the referendum will inevitably become politicized, and the split in society will widen.

I am sure that if the January and February consultations, disputes, and discussions demonstrate the impossibility of achieving accord, then we will have to seek ways of making changes to the Congress decree dated 12 December 1992 "On the Stabilization of the Constitutional System of the Russian Federation." This will entail the **cancellation of the referendum** and the raising of the **issue** of early **reelections**. This is a "spare" option, which must be carefully thought out, and we must be ready to put it into practice.

In the light of a threat to state unity, the leaders of federal power could in that case put forward a joint initiative **to convene an extraordinary Congress** in March-April. The agenda would have to be restricted and reduced to a reexamination of the referendum and to the adoption of a decision on political reform.

The upcoming transitional period could be provisionally divided into three stages: the adoption of a law on political reform and its constitutional formalization, and the adoption of the electoral code (by fall of 1993); the scheduling and holding of reelections (December 1993-March 1994); and the convening of a new Supreme Soviet.

This maneuver may enable us to avoid aggravation in society and prevent the disintegration of Russia.

We must not fail to bear in mind the possibility of a decision on early reelections of both the deputies and the president. This may backfire because the desire to strengthen power may lead to its complete paralysis for a long time.

The main reasons stipulating the need for early reelections include this one: **The present federal power has avoided fulfilling the direct constitutional obligation of ensuring state sovereignty and the state unity of the Russian Federation.**

Whether there is a referendum or not, what its essence will be, the legal and political consequences of success or failure—these things depend on accord being reached at several levels.

First of all, accord between the leaders of the three branches of power. A great deal depends on the endurance and farsightedness of the president, this being his last chance to stop being the "president of the democrats" and to form a consolidating centrist tandem together with the legally elected vice president.

Second, accord between the main all-Russian political associations.

The greatest difficulty is in reaching agreement between the federal power and the regions. It is not enough to meet with republic leaders. It is important to turn directly to the inhabitants of the various regions of Russia. The question of state support for pro-Russian forces, forgotten by the federal power, which has been involved in the struggle at the top, has long been overdue for resolution. It is good that Yeltsin's decree of 13

January provided a legal basis for actions by the law enforcement organs with respect to the nationalistic and separatist organizations which sow the black seeds of strife. This is one of the few manifestations of an offensive rather than defensive (justificatory), fawning stance of the federal power.

President's Administration Chief Filatov Profiled

PM2501144793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jan 93 p 4

[Sergey Chugayev report under the "Personalities" rubric: "New Head of the Russian President's Administration Is a Politician Who Is More a Man of Action Than of Words"]

[Excerpts] Sergey Filatov's work in the post of first deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet finished officially 18 January. He took up the post of head of the president's administration 19 January. S. Filatov's activities in the Russian parliament have created an image of him in the eyes not only of detached observers but also of many journalists writing about the Russian Supreme Soviet as a person who is definitely smart, honest, and decent, but who is also soft and not always decisive. [passage omitted]

There is an opinion in existence that when S. Filatov was elected at the fifth congress as first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, this was the result of a compromise which R. Khasbulatov reached with "Democratic Russia," which was demanding that it have its representative in parliament's supreme leadership. There is, however, much evidence that at that time the speaker simply did not have any other candidate suitable for the job of secretary to the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The cooling in the relations between the speaker and his first deputy began after the sixth congress, when S. Filatov took on himself the mission of acting as an intermediary between the government and parliament. It was actually under his chairmanship that the famous Supreme Soviet Presidium session took place 12 April, in which Ye. Gaydar and other vice premiers participated. It was at this session that the compromise was reached, which R. Khasbulatov intentionally wrecked the following day with his historic utterance about the "guys who lost their way," which almost led to a crisis in the government. The differences became greater after S. Filatov openly took IZVESTIYA's side during Khasbulatov's confrontation with the paper.

We did not have to wait long for the speaker's reaction. In August of last year in violation of the normative act which parliament itself adopted, he to all intents and purposes discharged Filatov from his active duties. What happened as a result is well-known. S. Filatov, who was one of the people who created the Russian parliament, left it.

According to informed sources, R. Khasbulatov actively opposed S. Filatov's appointment as head of the president's administration, as he did not wish to admit his then already former colleague to the political big time. This circumstance may serve as indirect confirmation not only of the supposition that on the eve of the referendum B. Yeltsin's team has received powerful reinforcements, but also of the fact that in the near future it is evident that the political significance of the post of head of the president's administration will increase substantially.

Rumyantsev Leads New Russian Democratic Center

LD2601110993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] A new organization, the Russian Federation Social Democratic Center [Rossiyskiy sotsial-demokraticheskiy tsentr], which has a membership of about 1,000, has been registered with the Ministry of Justice. It split from the Russian Social-Democratic Party at the end of November last year. According to its leader, People's Deputy Oleg Rumyantsev, it stands for a strong state social policy, more active state regulation of the economy, for combining democracy and patriotism, and championing Russia's geopolitical interests. The Russian Federation Social Democratic Center regard themselves as centrists with a prostate orientation, and plan to cooperate with the Civic Union bloc.

Committee Disagrees on Draft Law for Information Center

OW2601112593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1107 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Members of the Russian Supreme Council's Committee on Legislation, on Tuesday, failed to come to a unified position regarding the draft document establishing the Russian Federal Information Center.

Of the seven members of the committee who were in attendance (the total membership is eleven), three, including Chairman Mikhail Mityukov, believe that the president's decree dated January 25, which established the Center, does not contradict the Constitution, and that there is therefore no basis for an appeal to the Constitutional Court.

The three other members of the committee issued a joint opinion suggesting that the Supreme Council be advised to pass the draft legislation, excluding the preamble, which they assert contradicts the Constitution. These three members further believe, that the last point should be cut out of the legislation; this point would assign the general prosecutor's office the responsibility of conducting an inquiry into the fact of Mikhail Poltoranin's (the Federal Information Center's head) interview with the Italian newspaper "Unita", in which he contended

that Ruslan Khasbulatov had, on December 10 1992, prepared a constitutional coup at the Congress of People's Deputies.

The three committee members furthermore suggested that two points be inserted into the draft legislation. The points would suggest to the Supreme Council, that it pass legislation to the effect, that the Center would not depend on financing from the Russian budget; and that the Committee on Legislation be assigned to preparing an application to the Constitutional Court regarding an inquiry into the constitutionality of the president's decree, dated December 25 1992. Both positions will be submitted to the Supreme Council's session on Thursday.

Russian TV Leadership on Yeltsin Decree

LD2501182293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] I would like to introduce you to the opinion of our company leadership regarding the president's decree making Russian Television state television. In recent days, some media reporters, including journalists of the Ostankino television company, expressed their fears that channel one programs would be broadcast on channel two. The leadership of the all Russian State Television and Radio Company finds this bewildering and confirms once more that any switching of channels is out of the question. All the programs of the Ostankino television company will be transmitted by channel one as before.

No Reported Changes in Radiation Levels Near Sunken Sub

OW2501152093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Gennadiy Vorobyev, the chief of the Radiation and Chemical Security Department's section of the Russian Naval Headquarters, declared to Interfax that the special services of the Russian Navy, supervising the ecological situation of this region have no information about any serious changes in the radiation levels of the region where the atomic submarine, "Komsomolets", was damaged and is lying on the bottom of the Norwegian Sea since 1989.

He explained that any conclusion about a change in the radiation level of the disaster area can be made only after the results of the research conducted by a special hydrographic ship, at the end of January are analyzed. According to Vorobyev, the ship will examine only the near-surface layer of water. As before, the situation on the bottom will be guessed at, on the results of the last expedition which examined the downed submarine last July.

Vorobyev believes that the leakage of radioactive material is quite probable and expressed satisfaction with the decision of the government to conduct works to bury the submarine on the sea bottom. The Navy believes that the lifting of the atomic submarine is very risky.

Admiral Gromov Comments on Decommissioning Submarines

PM2501160593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 2

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy report: "Navy Commander Admiral Gromov Comments on the Problem of the Russian Navy Shipbuilding Program"]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan—Around 80 submarines have now been decommissioned from the Russian Federation Navy. Nuclear reactors have been removed from approximately one-third of them, and the planned removal process is under way on the rest. This was stated by Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Federation Navy. He noted that, while waiting for the nuclear reactors to be removed, the submarines are laid up with their crews, who are monitoring all security matters on a day-to-day basis. As he put it, work is under way to mothball [dlitelnyy otstoy] the submarines, while work is being done on finding sites where the optimum regional dumps can be built for the materials and waste products left over after recycling [utilizatsiya]. The commander in chief of the Russian Navy stressed that in 1992 the Russian Federation Government for the first time adopted a program for the recycling of submarines.

Adm. Feliks Gromov noted: "We have deliberately accelerated the process of decommissioning obsolete ships which are no longer combat-capable and have become rather dangerous to operate because of their old wiring."

On the basis of the new political and economic conditions we have now created a new 10-year shipbuilding program for the Russian Federation Navy, in order to ensure that the Navy poses the optimum deterrent and is capable of fulfilling the mission of safeguarding Russia's security in any part of the world, Adm. Gromov went on to say. The commander in chief noted that the questions of financing shipbuilding in 1992 was very complex. Nonetheless, the Russian Federation Government has defined shipbuilding priorities—particularly for the nuclear submarine shipbuilding center in Severodvinsk, and for submarines and surface ships—and, although the program has been cut somewhat, the process of replacing obsolete vessels with new ships will be continued, the admiral said. And he noted that the shipbuilding program for the Russian Federation Navy is less than the program for the Union Navy was—since Russia has inherited just 60-64 percent of the former USSR's shipbuilding economic potential.

Turning to the manning of Navy subunits on a voluntary basis—under contract—the Navy commander in chief noted that only 10 percent of the posts set aside for this category of servicemen have been filled. Meetings of the Navy leadership are currently under way at the Navy's Main Staff to examine measures to increase the number of people serving with naval units under contract.

Yeltsin Controls Export of Missile Technologies

PM2501144593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 1

[Untitled "Chronicle" report]

[Text] The Russian president's directive "On Introducing Controls Over the Export From the Russian Federation of Equipment, Materials, and Technologies Used in the Manufacture of Missile Weapons" approves the list submitted by the government of equipment, materials, and technologies whose export is controlled and carried out only under license. A new list of export organizations granted the right to export strategically significant goods has also been approved. Interested persons and organizations can see the list of equipment, materials, and technologies designated for export at the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI editorial office.

Soyuz TM-16 Spaceship Docks With 'Mir' Orbital Complex

LD2601090893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0813 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—The Soyuz TM-16 spaceship, manned by Gennadiy Manakov and Aleksandr Poleshchuk, the crew of the 13th expedition, has just docked with the orbital complex Mir.

The spaceship was launched from Baykonur cosmodrome on January 24.

Anatoliy Solovyov and Sergey Avdeyev, the crew of the 12th long- duration expeditionm have been working in orbit since July 29, last year.

Government Commission Meets; To Adopt '93 Reform Concept

OW2501204093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1949 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government commission for drafting measures for 1993 to expand reforms and promote economic stability (it consists of a number of government ministers and Cabinet staff - IF [INTERFAX]) met in session under the chairmanship of first Vice- Premier Vladimir Shumeyko on Monday.

Reliable sources in the government have said the session decided to adopt the 1993 financial-economic concept for Russia's policies which Vice-Premier Boris Fedorov suggested at a session of the government's Presidium on January 20.

The budget deficit is going to be reduced to five percent of GNP, the ruble stabilized in the second half of 1993 and a gradual stabilization of production brought about.

Consumer Prices Increase 2,539 Percent Since Dec 91

PM2501160793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed, untitled report under the "News Service Working" rubric]

[Text] The consumer prices index for the Russian Federation as a whole stood at 2,539 percent in December 1992 in relation to December 1991, including 193.1 percent for the fourth quarter of 1992 (December in relation to September of the same year).

The consumer prices index is calculated in strict accordance with the Russian Federation Law "On Indexation of Citizens' Monetary Incomes and Savings in the RSFSR" of 24 October 1991.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Chairs 25 Jan Presidium Session

LD2501172493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1550 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Russia (the inner parliament) held a regular meeting on January 25 in Moscow, which was presided by Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Khasbulatov opened the meeting by briefing the Presidium members on his trip to the Kemerovo region in connection with its 50th anniversary.

"The Kuzbass coal-mining area," Khasbulatov noted, "is the region, where the working class was the first to oppose the party that called itself a working-class party. Admittedly, a huge gap has formed by that time between the ruling party and the working class.

"I think that if the party's leadership at that time had sufficiently serious theoreticians, they would have drawn more profound conclusions from the miners' movement and protests by the working class, than the ones which we have witnessed in practice. As a result the crisis has further exacerbated, leading to the demise of the party itself.

"It should be noted," Khasbulatov continued, "that the Kemerovo region served as a catalyst of contradictions in our society during two to three years. Not only economic, but also political and ideological."

"Aware of this, we had a very busy schedule in Kuzbass: Several meetings at major plants, mines, the regional council and administration of the republic, meetings in streets when we were asked blunt questions, because it is hard to expect pleasing questions nowadays. This was not a formal visit. We have learned new facts in addition to what we have known already.

"The region faces the same problems as any other region, but they are only more exacerbated. Ecology is one of the major problem and there are many intertwining economic and financial difficulties.

"The payments problem has deteriorated across the country. Hence, the desire of some commercial banks to delay dispatch of resources, issued by the Central Bank, to recipients in order to obtain extra dividends. For the state such actions become not only an economic but also a complicated political problem, especially in conditions of our permanent political crisis."

Second, the parliament speaker noted, there are no former contradictions between representative and executive authorities in the region. Common cause brings people together and this is a good sign.

"At present it is absolutely inadmissible to hold elections of heads of administration," Khasbulatov continued. "The time is not right. God willing, we will cope with the referendum, whose results will definitely have a negative effect. There will be no winners, no matter what questions are put and what people vote for. There will be the only result: A further weakening of state authority."

And the third conclusion. The population follows closely the activity of the Supreme Soviet and takes note of positive changes in passing legislative acts aimed at strengthening social protection, raising pensions. Even though everybody realises that further rises in prices largely render these efforts of the parliament useless, Khasbulatov noted in conclusion.

In accordance with the parliamentary procedure, draft legislative bills were submitted to the meeting before being considered by permanent commissions of the chambers, the committees of the Supreme Soviet and subjects of legislative initiative. Among them are draft state programmes of privatisation of state and municipal enterprises in 1993, laws "on privatisation vouchers", "on alterations and amendments in the RSFSR law 'on referendum in the RSFSR'", "on alterations and amendments in the Russian Federation law 'on state duties'", "on courts dealing with families and minors", "on safety of major facilities of the Russian Federation".

Debates were held on the report by Deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Commission N. Ryabov on the main provisions of the new Constitution of the Russian Federation, due to be put to all- Russia referendum on April 11. A working group of the Constitutional Commission prepared draft main provisions, which integrated seven variants which had been earlier tabled by subjects of legislative initiative. It was decided to continue discussion of the draft main provisions of the new Constitution at the next meeting of the presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

The meeting approved the proposal by the Parliamentary Centre of the Russian Federation on holding a scientific and practical conference in the first half of February to discuss procedure and methods of preparing and holding referendums.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet agreed with the proposal of the Central Bank of Russia to issue new banknotes in 1993 with the denomination of 100, 200, 500, 1,000 and 5,000 roubles. The decision was taken to counter wide-spread counterfeiting of banknotes, currently in circulation on the territory of the Russian Federation, with the use of modern equipment (full-colour copiers, jet printers, etc.), which makes detection of bogus bills difficult and inflicts great damage to the country's money circulation. New banknotes will have updated elements of counterfeit protection in compliance with the recommendations of the Russian Interior Ministry and Interpol.

A treaty on the principles of relations between the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a treaty between the Russian Federation and the Hungarian Republic on friendly relations and cooperation, a treaty between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on legal protection in civil and criminal suits were submitted for ratification by the Supreme Soviet.

Ch. D.B. Ondar, a people's deputy of the Russian Federation, was appointed a representative of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation in the Ingush Republic until legislative bodies are formed there.

The meeting also considered other state issues of the Russian Federation.

Khasbulatov Skeptical Over Referendum

LD2501110193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov believes the April 11 referendum on the basics of the Russian Constitution will yield only negative results.

"There will be no winners at the April referendum", he told the Presidium of the Russian Parliament on Monday.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin had earlier stated that he and his supporters cannot lose the referendum which is to solve many important issues of state structure.

Khasbulatov, who has just returned from a trip to Kuzbass, the main Russian coal region, believes commercial banks are to blame for the complicated economic and banking situation in the region.

He proposed to close five-six commercial banks for not fulfilling their duties and this would make other banks be more responsible in their work.

The speaker said that commercial banks artifically delay settlements between enterprises.

Major Constitutional Provisions Considered

OW2501151293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1442 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [25 January], the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet considered a draft of the Russian Constitution's major provisions to be presented at the nation-wide referendum scheduled for April 11. A working group of the Constitutional Commission has presented a unified version, containing 11 provisions.

In particular, the provisions fix a republican form of government in the Russian Federation and maintain that its statehood is based on the principles of federalism. The provisions declared that a man, his life and health, honor and dignity, inviolability and security, rights and freedoms are the greatest values and are protected by the state. The constitution guarantees freedom of economic activity, entrepreneurship and labor and announces the equality of all forms of ownership. The authors of the draft propose, to put forward a provision that every citizen of the Russian Federation can have land in his private ownership. However, the draft says "owning, usage, and exploitation of land should not contradict the interests of the society." A system of state power in Russia is among the provisions proposed for the referendum. It is built on the principles of division into legislative, executive, and legal powers and is implemented on the basis of the division of the subjects of responsibility and authorities between the federal bodies of power and power bodies of republics, territories, provinces, and cities of federal significance.

The draft states that "the Supreme Soviet, elected directly by the people, acting permanently and consisting of two chambers is the only legislative body of the Russian Federation in its future constitution."

The President of the Russian Federation is defined as the Head of the State, elected by the people, who governs the activity of Russian executive power.

In the course of the discussion, Ramazan Abdulatipov, the chairman of the Council of Nationalities, proposed to reflect the significance of the Federative Treaty in the draft more precisely. Nikolay Medvedev, the Chairman of the National-State System Commission, proposed, to the working group, to get acquainted with the proposals of the Russian President before submitting the final variant to the Supreme Soviet.

Before February 1 the working group is due to revise the draft and to send it to the Supreme Soviet committees and commissions. It should be submitted to the Russian President and the Constitutional Court before February 5.

Draft Privatization Program Considered

LD2501132793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—The presidium of the Russian Parliament today considered the draft program of privatisation for 1993 submitted by the Russian president.

The draft was presented by Anatoliy Chubays, the chairman of the State Property Committee, who said the government had done extensive work to summarize the proposals which had came from territories, heads of administration and local property committees to form the basis of the program.

The presidium decided to send the draft to committees and commissions for study and preparation for consideration by parliament.

The presidium also discussed the bill "on privatisation cheque" aiming to form a legal basis for the mechanism of transferring state property to citizens gratis in the process of the sell-off.

According to the bill, control over the circulation of privatisation vouchers is vested in the Central Bank of Russia. In a new development, vouchers will be used in non-cash circulation.

Representatives to Ingushetia Named

OW2501125993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1240 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting on Monday [25 January] the Presidium of Russian parliament resolved to appoint Russian Peoples' Deputy Chimit-Dorzhu Ondar a plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet to Ingushetia during the formation of legislative organs in this Caucasian republic.

Until being elected to Russia's parliament, Ondar was chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tuva (southeastern Siberia). Presently he belongs to the parliamentary faction Communists of Russia.

Russian Peoples' Deputy from Ingushetia, Ibargim Kostoyev, has been named deputy plenipotentiary representative of the Russian parliament to Ingushetia.

Elections to the highest legislative organ of Ingushetia, according to a recent resolution by the Presidium of Russian parliament, are to be held April 11.

Printing of New Currency Discussed

OW2501130293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1239 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation approved a proposal by the Central Bank of Russia on Monday [25 January] to issue 1993 modified bank notes worth 100, 200, 500, 1000 and 5000 rubles. The resolution on this issue declares that the new notes, which will be circulated along with the old ones, are being introduced "in order to strengthen protection of Russia's national currency."

Chairman of the parliamentary budget-planning commission, Aleksandr Pochinok, explained that the new notes, which will be slightly smaller in size than the old ones, will have the Russian Federation flag and the Moscow Kremlin depicted on them.

Tajikistan Peacekeeping Mission Considered

OW2501175793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The draft resolution "On the participation of the military contingent of the Russian Federation in joint forces for the maintenance of peace in Tajikistan" was presented on Monday [25 January] at the session of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation and submitted for further discussion in the Russian parliament. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation is considering the agreement to send a military contingent of 500 persons to participate in the joint forces along with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The draft proposes instructing the Russian government to decide questions related with the formation of this military sub-unit and also the conclusion of corresponding agreements with the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the parliamentary committee on defense and security, stressed that the adoption of such a decision requires a definite status for the peacekeeping forces on an interstate level which requires the signing of a corresponding agreement. According to him a verbal agreement on this question was reached at the last meeting of heads of Commonwealth states and governments in Minsk. Stepashin also considers the formation of a joint command of the joint peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan as necessary.

Khasbulatov Visits Kuzbass, Views Problems

LD2201204593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1702 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigory Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo January 22 TASS—Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov arrived on a two-day working visit in Kuzbass coal basin. He will also attend the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the Kemerovo region.

The main aim of his visit is to discuss problems of social and economic development of the region with its leaders and representatives of the local business community.

Kuzbass which has long been known as the industrial heart of Siberia is now passing through hard times. Production slump continued last year. The volume of output decreased by approximately 16 per cent in the region's leading industries. The coal mines operated at a level recorded 20 years ago and produced a mere 115 million tonnes of coal, down from 150 million in the preceding years. Numerous accidents have been plaguing the Kuzbass mines. The social sphere and everything relating to ensuring normal living standards have been largely neglected. The growth of crime is a major concern for the local inhabitants.

Ruslan Khasbulatov will begin work in accordance with his schedule for the visit on Saturday. The region's leaders plan to discuss with him problems of the social and economic development of the region and set forth a specific programme of action for the next few years as well as to secure Khasbulatov's promise of assistance from the parliament and the government.

Visits Kuzbass Poultry Farm, Colliery

LD2401091293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0822 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo January 24 TASS—Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, who is touring the Kuznetsk coal basin (Kuzbass), on Sunday visited coal and agro-industrial sector enterprises in the region.

The corporatisation of enterprises and economic problems were discussed during Khasbulatov's visit to the Kamyshino poultry factory-farm. The personnel of the enterprise encounters the following problem: The steadily operating poultry factory-farm, instead of gaining profits, has run into multi-million debts, despite the high-beyond-measure prices of their products at Kemerovo shops.

The parliament speaker's meetings with workers at the Kedrovskiy coal quarry were of a more optimistic

nature. The Kuzbassrazrezugol Company, of which the quarry is part, last year shipped about 45 million tonnes of coal to users, or almost one million tonnes more than planned.

Mine workers invest large funds in the social welfare development of miners' towns. They, for example, have no problems with pre- school institutions and hospitals.

The social welfare development is a guarantee of the company's good future, company directors maintain, admitting, however, that there still are quite a number of concerns in this respect.

Khasbulatov, Yarov Confer With Industrialists

LD2401232393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov's and Yuriy Yarov's trip to Kuzbass has ended. Our correspondent Sergey Saltymakov gives the details from Kemerovo.

[Saltymakov] This morning Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov visited the Kamyshinskaya poultry farm. This is a large agro-industrial enterprise, the produce of which is well known to the inhabitants of Kemerovo and several other towns in the oblast. Meanwhile, Kozlov, director of the poultry farm, made critical remarks about the way the reoganization of the industry is progressing. He believes that in spite of mass privatization, such giant poultry farms as Kamyshinskaya must remain under the state's wing and count on its support and aid.

The miners feel more confident in the present situation. This was evidenced by the visit to the Kedrovskiy open cast colliery not far from Kemerovo. Nevertheless, overall, the region's leading industry is also going through a serious crisis today.

At a conference with the Kuzbass industrialists, which also took place today, Yuriy Yarov voiced an assumption that Government decisions on the fuel and energy complex will be more precise and checked out. In response to a proposal to introduce free prices for coal, Yarov answered that it is not such a simple matter. He said that specialists believe that in that case apartment rents will amount to 5,000 rubles. The vice premier is against facilitating hyperinflation, and that is precisely the threat posed by free prices on fuel and energy resourcese. If these prices are introduced the present government will have to resign and the next one replacing it will not be able to regulate economic processes because they will already be out of control, stressed Yarov.

Taking into account the composition of the conference participants and the direction of the questions, the parliamentary speaker also touched upon the most acute economic problems in his address. In particular, he noted that in all civilized countries the agro-industrial complex is subsidized by the state. Khasbulatov termed attempts to deprive it of this support as anti-market. According to Khasbulatov, it is necessary to have and to finance federal programs for animal husbandry, poultry husbandry, and fodder production. Regions must also develop such programs for themselves.

Discusses Organized Crime

LD2401133593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1212 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo, 24 Jan—It looks as if organized crime is starting to declare war on the state, Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said at a meeting with heads of Kuzbass enterprises that was held today at the end of his visit to this region.

Khasbulatov thinks that all economic reforms—all attempts to turn our country into a democratic one—sound rather naive unless the sore points of our society and our state are highlighted. Khasbulatov said that one of these sore points is the absolute helplessness of the government and its complete bankruptcy with regard to fighting crime. If the government is losing this fight, Khasbulatov noted, how can it win in social politics, implement economic reforms, and improve the situation for people? Incidentally, he stressed, the last task is a thousand times more complicated. He also criticized the law enforcement bodies for their "helplessness."

The chairman said in connection with the current situation that the president, the parliament, and the government ought to decide together specifically how much extra money they needed to put things in order in the country. According to Khasbulatov, the Supreme Soviet is prepared to allocate as much money for these purposes as necessary, despite the deficit.

Khasbulatov said that if the situation remains the same in the area of law enforcement bodies—just because of the inability to stop growing crime—one would have the right to raise the question of sacking not only ministers but the whole government, if the government is incapable of fulfilling its obligations toward the Constitution and the law.

Meets Kuzbass Enterprise Directors, Ends Visit

LD2401141393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1234 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo January 24 TASS—The tour of the Kuznetsk Coal Basin (Kuzbass) by Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov ended with a meeting with directors of enterprises from all sectors of the region.

Summing up the results of the tour, Khasbulatov pointed out that Kuzbass is an a difficult position: Many problems here are of chronic nature and are unconnected with the January of 1992 when the realisation of measures, suggested by the Yegor Gaydar government, was

started. In the opinion of Khasbulatov, those measures aggravated the state of affairs.

The coal-producing sector, for example, was struck off the list of the most important ones in the fuel-and-power complex of Russia.

The parliament speaker believes that Kuzbass problems should be thoroughly considered at a meeting of the parliament presidium and an appropriate decision must be taken.

Chairman Postpones Discussion of Federal Information Center

OW2501184493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vladimir Lisin, who was elected last Friday [22 January] by the Russian Supreme Soviet to chair the parliamentary Media Committee, said that the committee's future will be decided at the general session of its members on Thursday, January 28. In an interview with Interfax on Monday he said he believed "there will be no fundamental changes in the staff or in the committee's practical activities, although a certain change should be made."

Lisin is not yet ready to answer questions regarding the legality of forming the Federal Information Center [FIC]. Discussing the financing of FIC activities through presidential funds, he stressed that "if the Supreme Soviet feels the president has been given too much money, then this means they will be limited to a designated sum."

No Consensus Reached on Federal Information Center

LD2601124593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0953 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—The Legislative Committee of the Russian Supreme Soviet has not reached unanimity on the problem of the Russian Federal Information Centre, recently set up by presidential decree. Having discussed today the draft of the parliament's resolution on the centre, the committee members formulated two approaches to the problem.

One of them proceeds from the premise that the committee finds no grounds to appeal to the Constitutional Court with a request to check the constitutionality of President Yeltsin's decree "on the Federal Information Centre of Russia", because, as believed by several committee members, the head of state did not violate the constitution. Other members of the committee, on the contrary, believe that the president has violated the constitution and, therefore, there is every reason to challenge the presidential decree in the Constitutional Court.

The two stands were supported by an equal number of committee members during the voting. Hence, it was decided to report on the two points of view to a plenary meeting of the Supreme Soviet, scheduled for Thursday. The first view will be explained by Committee Chairman Mikhail Mityukov and the second—by deputy Dmitriy Stepanov.

Decree on 11 Apr Referendum Published

PM2501163393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 2

[Decree No. 4291-1 of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet "On Measures To Ensure the Holding of an All-Russian Referendum 11 April 1993", dated Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 14 January 1993 and signed by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov]

[Text] In line with the decree of the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies dated 12 December 1992 "On Stabilizing the Constitutional Structure of the Russian Federation" and on the basis of the RSFSR Law "On the RSFSR Referendum," the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees:

1. That nationwide voting—a referendum on the basic provisions of the new Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Russian Federation—be declared on all Russian Federation territory on Sunday 11 April 1993.

2. That it be established that during the holding of the said referendum, the powers of the Central Commission for the All-Russian Referendum be exercised by the Central Electoral Commission for the Election of Russian Federation People's Deputies.

3. That it be established that the powers of the district commissions for the all-Russian referendum be exercised accordingly by the central electoral commissions for the election of people's deputies of the Russian Federation constituent republics, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the kray, oblast, and Moscow and St. Petersburg city electoral commissions for the election of people's deputies of the corresponding soviets of people's deputies.

The Supreme Soviets of the Russian Federation constituent republics, the soviets of people's deputies of the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and kray, oblast, and Moscow and St. Petersburg city soviets of people's deputies are to supplement as required the composition of the district commissions for the all-Russian referendum within a week of the day of publication of this decree.

4. Okrug (autonomous okrugs not divided into rayons), rayon, city, and city rayon soviets of people's deputies

are to form referendum precincts and resolve the issue of forming precinct commissions for the all-Russian referendum within three weeks of the date of publication of this decree.

5. Okrug commissions for the all-Russian referendum, in coordination with the corresponding soviets of people's deputies, are to be authorized to enlist for the purposes of holding the referendum rayon, city, and city rayon electoral commissions for the election of people's deputies of corresponding soviets of people's deputies and grant these electoral commissions the necessary powers.

6. Following a submission from the Central Commission for the All-Russian Referendum, the Russian Federation Government is to resolve issues of material and financial backup for the holding of the referendum.

Under the RSFSR Law "On the RSFSR Referendum," it is to be established that enterprises, institutions, organizations, and state and public organs are to let the Commission for the All-Russian Referendum have the use of any buildings, equipment, and transportation needed to hold the referendum over the period of preparation for and holding the referendum.

7. The Central Committee for the All-Russian Referendum is to monitor compliance with the law while the referendum is held, and to systematically inform the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet of the progress of preparation for the referendum.

8. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for Legislation is to analyze remarks and suggestions made by the Central Commission for the All-Russian Referendum and prepare and submit for examination by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet proposals on amending and supplementing the RSFSR Law "On the RSFSR Referendum" by 1 February 1993.

[Signed] Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov

[Dated] Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 14 January 1993

No. 4291-1

Ryabov Seen as Next First Deputy Speaker

PM2501174393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 4

[Sergey Chugayev report: "New Vice Speaker Enjoys a Pragmatist's Reputation"]

[Text] Even at today's Russian political pinnacle, you will not find many figures who have risen in their career as rapidly as Nikolay Ryabov, the 47-year-old Supreme Soviet deputy chairman.

In just three years the deputy director of the Salskiy Agricultural Technical School has traveled the path from ordinary people's deputy to deputy speaker of the Russian parliament. Today, following the departure from the Supreme Soviet of Sergey Filatov, N. Ryabov is being named the most probable successor to the post of Supreme Soviet first deputy chairman. Corroboration of this forecast can possibly be seen in the circumstance that at the 11 January session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, the first session following the parliamentary recess and the announcement of Filatov's departure, it was N. Ryabov who spoke on questions which come within the competence of the first deputy.

You can often hear the opinion that N. Ryabov owes the success of his political career solely to his devotion to R. Khasbulatov, which he demonstrated convincingly during the past two Congresses and the interval between them. However, deeper analysis shows that although you can still accept this explanation, you can do so only partially. The main qualities that enabled N. Ryabov, alone among over 1,000 deputies, to move up to one of the top rungs of the Russian parliament are, judging both by his colleagues' opinions and by my own observations, a fairly high professional standard, level-headedness, and pragmatism.

When he began work in the parliament, the first two qualities enabled him to win prestige fairly quickly among deputies of diverse political views. And N. Ryabov has retained this reputation to this day. He enjoys the reputation of a highly qualified lawyer and a specialist in private [chastnyy] law. It is said that when he was still a member of the parliamentary Committee for Legislation, N. Ryabov wrote one of the most successful laws adopted by the Russian parliament—the Law on Ownership—virtually single-handed. It is also said that when he was an ordinary deputy, N. Ryabov did not side with either the right-wingers or the left-wingers.

We can assume that this clearly defined centrism, plus the prestige of a professional, plus, as they say, support from S. Shakhray, who is a former chairman of the Committee for Legislation, as we recall, and who was highly influential at that time in parliament, were the preconditions for N. Ryabov's successful career. At the end of 1991, when the long struggle in the Supreme Soviet for the removal of Deputy V. Isakov from the post of chairman of the Soviet of the Republic ended in victory for "Democratic Russia," N. Ryabov's candidacy for the vacant post was put forward by "Democratic Russia" itself.

Soon he was presented with the opportunity to demonstrate his pragmatism too. When it became increasingly clear as the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies approached that the position of the democrats in parliament was weakening. The dilemma of whether to stay with "Democratic Russia" out of gratitude for putting him forward, dooming himself to the unenviable fate of a member of the opposition, or to seek a new prop was, as we can see, resolved in favor of the latter option.

Soon he was presented with a chance to confirm his loyalty to the leader of the parliament more convincingly. On the personal instructions of R. Khasbulatov, N. Ryabov was appointed head of the commission that was to place IZVESTIYA under the control of the Supreme Soviet. The IZVESTIYA workers were then able to feel keenly the "pragmatism" of the parliamentary leader for themselves: During a meeting with the editorial collective, he said many warm things about the newspaper. Later, from the rostrum at the session, the direct opposite was to be heard from his lips on the same subject.

At the same time, this very clearly expressed political pragmatism provides no grounds for claiming that N. Ryabov has found his definitive position as R. Khasbulatov's loyal comrade-in-arms. This politician's potential is fairly high. That is why you can assume that N. Ryabov's expected appointment as Supreme Soviet first deputy chairman will not be the last entry in his political biography.

Regional Affairs

'Working Russia' To Picket U.S. Embassy Over Iraq

PM2501202193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Vyacheslav Gerasimov report: "Picket Outside U.S. Embassy"]

[Text] The sociopolitical movements "Working Moscow" and "Working Russia" are today organizing a picket of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow as a sign of protest against the gendarme-style foreign policy course of the United States vis-a-vis Iraq, where innocent civilians are being killed.

Tatarstan President Shaymiyev Interviewed

PM2001130993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jan 93 First Edition pp 1, 4

[Interview with President Mintimer Shaymiyev of Tatarstan by Dmitriy Mikhaylin; place and date not given: "Time Outstrips Laws. Even Fundamental Ones"]

[Text] [Mikhaylin] Mintimer Sharipovich, the question with which I wish to begin has been put to you repeatedly. But, in my opinion, you have never answered it. At the same time many leaders of the Russian Federation and, in particular, the leadership of Russia's delegation at the talks with Tatarstan have repeatedly said that without an answer to this question it is impossible to emerge from the situation of uncertainty in relations between the republic and the federal center... Naturally, this is the question of whether the Republic of Tatarstan is part of the Russian Federation.

[Shaymiyev] Everyone is waiting for the answer to this question... I wish to say for the umpteenth time that Tatarstan favors new federative relations with Russia. Our republic's leadership has repeatedly declared that Tatarstan does not violate and does not intend to violate the Russian Federation's integrity. This says everything.

Of course, you could ask me—why, then, has Tatarstan not signed the Federation Treaty?

Some of its provisions did not suit us (not only us but also a number of other republics within Russia). We advocate fundamentally new, constitutional-treaty relations with the Russian Federation. The decree bringing into force the Constitution of Tatarstan—the decree adopted recently by the republic's Supreme Soviet—contains an appeal to the Supreme Soviet and president of Russia. We want the new Russian Constitution, as well as the adopted Constitution of Tatarstan, to contain an entry on our new relations.

I believe that this is the answer to the question that is of interest to everyone. Our voters spoke of this in the referendum in March 1991.

Therefore I do not understand the attempts by a number of Russian politicians to revise our constitution. The formula of our relations with Russia, entered in Article 61 of the Constitution of Tatarstan, was found in the talks with the Russian delegation. Not without the participation, incidentally, of Oleg Rumyantsev, secretary of the Constitutional Commission, who is now—evidently under pressure from certain forces—starting to review himself.

I would also have understood to some extent Moscow's rejection of Tatarstan's policy if the Federation Treaty were working. But it is not working. I regularly hear about this at sessions of the Council of Heads of Republics. There is no mechanism. The chief thing, in my opinion, is that no one seriously wants the Federation Treaty to work. Under these conditions, implementing its own policy, Tatarstan acts for its own good, but also for the good of all Russia. Reshaping the state structure according to our proposals will help to create a more democratic Russia as a federation.

[Mikhaylin] The formula for relations between Russia and Tatarstan has almost been defined in principle—both the Constitution of Tatarstan and the draft treaty with the Russian Federation contain the concept of association between the republic and the federation. How does this conform with the fact that the existing Russian Constitution does not provide for such a form of relations?

[Shaymiyev] There just could not be such an entry in the existing Russian Constitution, since it was adopted in 1978.

But we hope to see in the new Russian Constitution an entry on our new relations. Then they will be constitutional-treaty relations.

The closer we get to the date of the all-Russian referendum, the more acutely the question of signing the treaty between Russia and Tatarstan will arise. This is

because, if the formula has not been found by then, it could happen that there will be no referendum in Tatarstan.

[Mikhaylin] I do not think that anyone today would dispute the fact that the existing Russian Constitution is obsolete. But, in my opinion, it is necessary to heed the words of Valeriy Zorkin, chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court, who said at the last Congress that, if the existing constitution is not respected in the country, it could happen that society will not need a new one.

[Shaymiyev] At the same time we have the Congress decision adopted by a simple majority, not without the participation of the Constitutional Court chairman. It suspends constitutional norms. We have the fact that Moscow and St. Petersburg have long been working outside the Russian Constitution.

Why does the Constitutional Court not react to this? Different standards again?

Fine, let us live according to the old constitution. But then you must not deny the USSR Constitution. Why, then, did Russia start its path toward sovereignty and democracy by violating the Union Constitution?

If Russia had observed the USSR Constitution in the past, there would not have been renewal or perestroyka. Likewise, the existing Russian Constitution does not permit the building of a democratic society.

In my opinion, the chairman of the Constitutional Court and the responsible secretary of the Constitutional Commission must today speak not of bringing the republics' constitutions into line with the existing Russian Constitution but of the fact that the new Russian Constitution must be adopted as quickly as possible.

It should not be emphasized that former autonomous entities took advantage of the time of troubles to separate from Russia. The times forced Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Yakutia, and other republics to live in the new way.

[Mikhaylin] Given the new approach to Russia's state structure proposed by Tatarstan, is it possible to speak of the Russian Federation as a unified state?

[Shaymiyev] Why not? In that case the Russian state could be called a federative union. I am sure that this state would be far stronger and richer.

But for some reason people are afraid that Tatarstan will become strong. For some reason many people are opposed, for example, to our republic's becoming a subject of international law. Why would it be bad if Tatarstan were represented on a political plane in those countries where it has economic interests? The Union Republics of Ukraine and Belorussia were even represented at the United Nations. The Union had two extra votes.

Those who say that we are messing up Russia simply have no information about our dialogue. We delegate to the center the main state issues: defense, state security, communications, transport, and some others. We are not pulling out and have no intention of pulling out of the common ruble and economic area with Russia.

The democracy of many democrats sufficed only to resolve their own problems at the level of the Moscow Kremlin. And yet it is also necessary to work in the new way in the regions.

We even agree to the new relations between Tatarstan and Russia being regarded as an experiment. In a few years' time, I am sure, we will be able to show what the renewed, reformed Russia is like.

[Mikhaylin] You have said that the people mainly trust the leadership of Tatarstan. To all appearances, the reason for this is stability, both in the economy and in politics, far greater stability than in other parts of Russia and the CIS. But how is it being maintained?

[Shaymiyev] Stability in the economy and in politics is the first fruit of the economic concept which we adopted in the fall of 1991. A concept of soft entry to the market.

Let this not seem immodest, but can you name another region with the same indicators as Tatarstan? The gross volume of agricultural production increased 9 percent last year. Increased! Some 95 percent of collective and state farms ended the year without losses. The numbers of all kinds of livestock have been restored, and livestock has been provided with feed in both the public and the private sectors.

We are confident that we will be able already in the first half of the year to provide people with all essential foodstuffs at affordable prices.

A soft entry to the market means, in particular, that last year we directed one-fourth of our budget to the needs of agriculture. We will give it no less this year as well. We have sharply increased the purchase prices of agricultural output without increasing retail prices. Whatever people might say, there must be state regulation of prices! You might think it is unnatural when we speak of market relations in a pure form. And yet there is a definite transitional period which, with the best will in the world, cannot be skipped.

We have also gone our own way in privatization. Russian vouchers are valid here. I am convinced of the need for such a measure. But we will go further: We will revalue our property and issue our own privatization checks for the population of our republic.

In addition, the political and economic stability in the republic promotes the active setting up of international contacts. Many firms and banks are offering us credits.

[Mikhaylin] Can you give a figure, even an approximate one, for the correlation between the funds transferred by

Tatarstan to the federal budget and those obtained by Tatarstan from the federal budget?

[Shaymiyev] No, it is impossible to give this figure now. It will not be given you in other parts of Russia either. This is because there are constantly changing prices, sizes of subsidies and grants, volumes of funding, etc.

The only thing I can say is this: Tatarstan transfers and will continue to transfer payments for all the expenditure which Russia incurs for us.

The amounts of our mutual transactions have not yet been examined, but an agreement on this will soon be signed with the Russian Government.

[Mikhaylin] Let us continue the subject of stability in the republic: How great, in your opinion, is the safety margin in interethnic relations in Tatarstan?

[Shaymiyev] Interethnic relations are the chief factor for stability in the republic.

I think you can confirm that there are no ethnic conflicts here now. True, some people would like there to be. For some reason a number of the mass media, particularly Russian Television, are trying to create in Tatarstan an image of the enemy. It has to be admitted that they have succeeded to some extent in this.

Of course, I cannot deny the fact that there are extreme nationalists in Tatarstan and, on the other hand, so-called democratic radicals. It was they who sowed discord in people's souls for a while. But our firmness on this question and our disagreement with all forms of nationalism or chauvinism caused people to believe us. And to calm down.

According to statistics, 30 percent of the people who arrived in the republic last year were Russians. At the same time I cannot name a single person who has left Tatarstan because of ethnic strife.

[Mikhaylin] What would you like to wish all your Russian fellow citizens in the New Year?

[Shaymiyev] First, endurance. I would like politicians not to go on putting this endurance to the test. All reforms are not worth a plugged nickle if the people suffer during them.

Yeltsin Meets Tatar Leader for Talks 21 Jan

OW2101214693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At 15:00 on Thursday [21 January], state delegations of Tatarstan and Russia, led by Boris Yeltsin and Mintimer Shaymiyev, began talks in the Kremlin.

According to INTERFAX [IF] sources, the two leaders discussed the bilateral agreement. As expected, the most heated discussion flared up over the preamble dealing with the formula of relations between Russia and Tatarstan.

The two parties proposed alternative variants. According to the Russian variant, Tatarstan is a sovereign state which is a part of the Russian Federation and a subject of international law. The principles and mechanisms of relations between these states shall be set forth in both countries' constitution.

The variant, proposed by Tatarstan, says that the Republic of Tatarstan is a sovereign state and a subject of international law, asociated with Russia on the basis of an agreement. The principles and mechanisms of bilateral relations shall be set forth in both countries' constitutions.

IF Note: On Tuesday, the members of Tatarstan's delegations met in Kazan to discuss the limits of possible compromise during the Moscow talks. The delegation will insist on Tatarstan's associated status.

No additional official information on the talks has arrived yet.

Next Meeting Scheduled for 16 Feb

OW2101221793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The draft agreement between the federal state authorities and the republic on mutual delegated topics of authority and power was discussed at the meeting of Russian and Tatar delegations on Thursday [21 January] in the Kremlin. President Boris Yeltsin, Mintimer Shaymiyev, heads of governments Viktor Chernomyrdin and Mukhamad Sabirov, vice-premiers of the Russian Federation Sergey Shakhray and Yuriy Yarov, and the vice-president of Tatarstan, Vasiliy Likhachev, participated in the negotiations which in the assessment of the press secretary to the president of the Russian Federation Vyacheslav Kostikov proceeded "in a very benevolent spirit."

Commenting on the course of the meeting, Kostikov especially noted that the participants are trying to follow the formula - "from simple questions to more complex ones", and are considering the necessity of choosing such wordings which would provide for the unimpeded ratification of the treaty in the parliaments of Russia and Tatarstan". [no opening quotation marks as received]

The possibility of concluding an agreement on the question of alternative military service and the coordination of efforts in the fight against crime were discussed on 21 January. The participants at the meeting think that these agreements are at the highest degree of preparation.

The press secretary to the president of the Russian Federation placed the problems related with the organization of a tax system, activities of banks, monetary emission, and also the problems of ownership "among complex questions". Kostikov cited the assessment Mintimer Shaymiyev gave the discussion as having "achieved a significant rapprochement of points of view."

The decision was adopted that the next meeting of the delegations of Russia and Tatarstan is tentatively scheduled for 16 February in Moscow. They also reached agreement on the immediate preparation of agreements on the questions of economics, environmental protection and others within the context of work on the draft agreement between Russia and Tatarstan.

Government Reform Discussed

OW2301165193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The concept of relations, proposed by Tatarstan, might serve as an example of the way Russian should be, Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev said during a press conference highlighting the results of the Moscow talks. He also said that Tatarstan was not afraid to put a limit on its own sovereignty and pass its powers over to the federal bodies if this benefits it.

Speaking about the Russian referendum, Shaymiyev said that "if the drafting of the agreement is not accelerated, or mutual understanding is not achieved, Tatarstan will have nothing to say to the population on the issues raised in the referendum".

Shaymiyev described the Moscow talks on January 21 as a new stage in the negotiating process between Tatarstan and Russia. He said that the talks involved the presidents of both republics. This is a new element, he noted, which can give a new impetus to the talks.

Tatarstan's Vice-President Vassily Likhachev said that the Moscow talks began to break stereotypes. Russia no longer thinks that Tatarstan is destroying the federation, so it treats Tatarstan as a republic which proposes ways of shaping the federation, he said. Besides the basic agreements, the two parties will work on a number of other documents, including agreements on taxing policies, banking system, budget relations and security.

Tatar Delegation's Moscow Talks 'Constructive'

LD2501161193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 1

[Dmitriy Mikhaylin report: "Russia-Tatarstan: At the Highest Level"]

[Text] Delegations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan had a 90-minute meeting in Moscow.

Commenting on the results of the meeting in an interview for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, the vice president of Tatarstan rated them as positive, noting the constructive nature of the work. He also reported that "it was a frank discussion of the future of our relations." It was decided, in particular, to set up working groups to prepare agreements on a number of questions—the banking and budget system, the struggle against crime, ecology, and certain others—with a view to signing these agreements simultaneously with the bilateral treaty.

As regards the draft treaty itself, according to V. Likhachev, they "have not gotten around" to it yet. But it will definitely be examined at one of the next such meetings, since it has been decided to hold them regularly, two or three times a month.

A joint communique was signed on the results of the meeting, and on 22 January the leadership of Tatarstan held a news conference in the Kazan Kremlin on this subject.

Possible Problems on Agreement

OW2501184393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of Tatarstan's parliament, Farit Mukhametshin, claims "it would be very difficult to ratify the agreement between Russia and Tatarstan, even if the presidents of the two republics have initialed it." In his interview for Interfax on Monday [25 January], Mr Mukhametshin observed that although Ruslan Khasbulatov and himself have not achieved complete understanding on all the issues, "there is no longer an inflexible denial of Tatarstan's positions." Ruslan Khasbulatov, in his words, "has already accepted that Tatarstan is entitled to a special status."

"The situation appears to be much more difficult with the RF [Russian Federation] deputies from Tatarstan," Mr Mukhamedshin went on, "who do not share the positions of the republic which elected them."

Tatarstan Public Center Publishes Military Doctrine

LD2201232093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] During the time of the visit to Moscow of a delegation of Tatarstan's leadership, we have naturally been paying special attention to political developments in Kazan. The document discussed in our next report seems to us to be of particular importance since its authors are also responsible for many articles in the republic's current Constitution.

[A. Nikolayev] A military doctrine of the Republic of Tatarstan has been published in Kazan. The document is

based on a presumption that Tatarstan is an independent state. Its authors, from the Tatar Public Center [Tatarskiy obshchestvennyy tsentr], consider their work to be part of the strategy of national security and declare that they reject war as a means of resolving arguments between states and peoples. As for defense against external military threat, the authors of the document delegate this task to the UN Security Council and CSCE, trusting in the international right of inviolability of territories and neutral states. The Tatar Public Center insists that the Russian troops should be withdrawn from that territory, the KGB and military commissariats be disbanded and military bases and sites liquidated. It is proposed to form Tatarstan's own security forces instead. [Video shows official speaking at the Public Center, archive footage of simulated fighting, and people wearing historical military dress.]

North Ossetian, Ingushetia Delegations To Meet 23 Jan

LD2201222193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of North Ossetia today endorsed the composition of the republican delegation for participation in the talks with plenipotentiary representatives of the Ingush Republic. It is headed by Yuriy Biragov, first deputy head of North Ossetia's Parliament.

On the morning of 23 January, the delegation of the North Ossetian Soviet Social Republic will fly to Kislovodsk where, with the mediation of representatives of Dagestan and Stavropol Kray, it will meet with the plenipotentiary representatives of the Ingush republic.

The Ossetian and Ingush sides will focus on questions of the settlement of the armed conflict and of the return of refugees to their native areas.

Reports by some media to the effect that allegedly meetings between plenipotentiary representatives of North Ossetia and Ingushetia took place in Nazran and Vladikavkaz today do not conform to reality, ITAR-TASS reports.

Delegations Hold Peace Talks

OW2301150093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1352 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the city of Kislovodsk of the Stavropol region, an Ingush and Ossetian delegations are discussing moves to bring peace to the Prigorodni district of North Ossetia. The delegations have held separate meetings with spokesmen for the Stavropol and Daghestan governments which are mediating the peace effort.

The two delegations and the mediators will be expected to meet in plenary session to launch the second round of the negotiations. The head of the Ossetian delegation, First Deputy Chairman of the north Ossetian Parliament Yuriy Biragov has stressed to INTERFAX that the discussion is to be difficult.

North Caucasian leaders, and north Ossetian and Ingush veterans and women had met in the runup to the Kislovodsk negotiations.

Reconciliation Commission Meets

LD2301124693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1216 GMT 23 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styzhkin]

[Text] Kislovodsk, Stavropol territory, Southern Russia January 23 TASS—A Reconciliation Commission, which met here on Saturday [23 January] for its first working session, is called upon to normalise relations between the Ingush and North Ossetian Republics.

On the commission are representatives of state power bodies, public organisations, and the Councils of Elders.

The Reconciliation Commission was instituted here at a January 17 meeting of the leaders of the republics of the North Caucasus, Kuban, Stavropol and Don territories. It was arranged by the Russian parliament's Council of Nationalities and the Russian State Committee for the Nationalities Policy.

With the consent of the sides, Dagestan and Stavropol territory were elected mediators in preparing and holding talks between plenipotentiary Ingush and Ossetian delegations.

The mediators' opinion is that an important step towards making Ingush-Ossetian talks a success was taken a week ago when a roundtable meeting of national movements, political parties and public organisations of the region in Pyategorsk signed a declaration "on principles for inter-ethnic relations in the North Caucasus" and worked out proposals for a settlement of the Ingush-Ossetian conflict.

Mediators Urge No Interruption of Talks

OW2301165093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of the Stavropol territory and Dagestan, who act as mediators at the talks in Stavropol, urged the parties involved in the conflict not to interrupt the talks. The mediators' appeal, published on Saturday, says that even a short break in the dialogue may lead to a new splash of enmity and mistrust between the Ossetian and Ingush sides.

At the talks Russia is represented by Vice-Chairman of the State Committee for Ethnic Policies Valeriy Shamshurov, head of the interim administration in North

Ossetia and Ingushetia Aleksandr Kotenkov and member of the Russian parliament's presidium Anatoliy Anikeyev.

Opening the joint session of the Ossetian and Ingush delegations Anikeyev said that "all citizens of Russia are eagerly awaiting the results of the talks. The negotiating parties must not allow the events to turn the North Caucasus into ashes," he added.

Negotiations To Continue

OW2401101693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0935 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The delegations of North Ossetia and Ingushetia will continue negotiations on settling their conflict in Kislovodsk (the Stavropol region) on Sunday [24 January]. The delegations are led respectively by Yuriy Biragov, the first deputy chairman of North Ossetia's Supreme Soviet, and by Mr. Mauri Birkhinkoyev, the first deputy chief of Ingushetia's administration. Representatives of the Stavropol region and Dagestan mediate the talks.

A working group is to finalize the negotiations' agenda, which, by available information, may include the questions of stepping up the search for those listed as missing, burial of the dead, and a lawsuit from Vladikavkaz, demanding that Ingushetia compensate for the damage done in the course of the conflict to state property and enterprises in North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy region. The refugees issue and definition of the Prigorodnyy region's status will most likely be omitted at this stage of negotiations.

As the head of the interim administration in North Ossetia and Ingushetia Aleksandr Kotenkov has told IF [INTERFAX], the sides have decided to refrain from making any information available on the pace of the talks until a concrete result has been reached. "Negotiations are under way, and that's the main thing"—he said.

In the meantime, as IF has learned from well-placed sources, Mr. Kotenkov received a telephone message from vice-premier Sergey Shakhray, Chairman for the RF [Russian Federation] State Committee on Ethnic Policy on Saturday, requesting the continuation of the talks in Kislovodsk until a concrete result there.

In an interview with an IF correspondent, Mr. Kotenkov has noted with satisfaction the fact that efforts to avoid confrontation with the Congress of Ingush People have succeeded. He welcomed the decision of the emergency Congress of Ingushes in Nazran last Saturday to postpone presidential elections in Ingushetia from January 24 to February 28, the election date that Russia's Supreme Soviet had recommended earlier this week.

Reconciliation Commission Continues Work

LD2401110693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Kislovodsk, Stavropol territory, January 24 TASS—A reconciliation commission for a settlement of the Ingush-Ossetian conflict, which met here on Saturday [23 January], continued its work on Sunday.

Talks between delegations of the Ingush and North Ossetian republics are held behind closed doors. However, during intermissions, representatives of both Ingushetia and North Ossetia, in brief exclusive interviews, agree that, notwithstanding the entire contradictoriness of viewpoints on the causes of why relations between the Ingushis and the Ossets have become aggravated, the talks are being held in an atmosphere of respectfulness and mutual striving to find solutions to the most acute problems and achieve a mutually acceptable compromise.

It has become known to the ITAR-TASS correspondent from sources close to the delegations that the programme for Sunday's session of the reconciliation commission envisages a continuation of the exchange of views, the discussion of a declaration on basic approaches in the quest for ways to settle the conflict, and a possible signing of the declaration, and the elaboration of an agenda for subsequent phases of the negotiating process.

'Constructive Dialogue' Noted

LD2501120493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1141 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 25 TASS—A North Ossetian delegation, which took part in the talks with official representatives of the Ingush Republic, returned to Vladikavkaz from Kislovodsk today. According to Yuriy Biragov, first deputy chairman of the North Ossetian Parliament and head of the delegation, the meeting gave a certain impetus for the continuation of the constructive dialogue. A special document was signed on the results of the meeting, which permits the Ossetian and Ingush sides to take steps for meeting each other halfway. Reports continue to come from the state of emergency area which show that the situation is being stabilised there. According to the information of the provisional administration headquarters, no shooting or armed clashes were registered there on Sunday night. Russian peace-keeping troops are fully controlling the situation.

At the same time, according to the estimates of the investigation group of the Russian Interior Ministry, the crime situation continues to be complicated. Civilians continue to keep a lot of fire arms and ammunition. 134 people were arrested on Sunday for the violation of the curfew, 15 crimes and accidents were registered.

Major general Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of the Russian Interior Ministry troops, and Major General Yuriy Kosolapov, commander of the North Caucasian district of the Russian Interior Ministry troops, made an inspection trip to Vladikavkaz. They familiarised themselves with the current situation in the region, met leaders of the North Ossetian Republic and specified a plan of joint actions to be taken by the Russian Interior Ministry troops and units of the allied Armed Forces of the Russian Federation to stabilise the situation there.

Gen Aushev Interviewed on Ingushetia Presidency

MK2201163993 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 20 Jan 93 p 1

["Exclusive interview" with Ruslan Aushev, chairman of the Committee for Internationalist Soldiers, by Dmitriy Kholodov in Moscow; date not given: "Five Days to Presidency"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Ruslan Aushev's comfortable office is located virtually in the very center of Moscow near the Kremlin on the third floor of an old building surrounded on all sides by company offices. He is currently chairman of the Committee for Internationalist Soldiers. But few people doubt that he will become president of Ingushetia 24 January.

[Kholodov] Did you know that a congress of the Ingush people was in preparation when you resigned?

[Aushev] No. It was like this. I left Ingushetia and started working in Moscow. But a week later a delegation suddenly arrived from Nazran with 100,000 signatures asking me to return. They literally filled two bags. People said that they had collected the signatures—children had gone from house to house. I flew to Nazran and gathered together members of the public. They said, you must take charge of the republic. I said that I would not agree to be head of the interim administration.

[Kholodov] How did you react to the suggestion of your becoming president?

[Aushev] To my great regret, the president will be elected uncontested.

[Kholodov] If you are elected president, will Russian politicians' attitude toward you change?

[Aushev] Undoubtedly.

[Kholodov] How will your attitude toward them change?

[Aushev] That will be another story. I want Ingushetia to be a strong republic. Ingushetia will be strong and so will Russia. As for personalities, I approve of Shakhray's actions in the Caucasus.

[Kholodov] You have to formulate a law on elections to the Supreme Soviet. Will you manage to do that by 12 February as the congress decreed?

[Aushev] I believe that at this extraordinary time it is necessary for the executive and the legislature to be in the hands of one man. As for dates, 12 February is too soon.

[Kholodov] Do you think Ingushetia will secede from Russia?

[Aushev] Ingushetia will be part of Russia.

[Kholodov] Which would you choose were the following question to arise—Russia or Prigorodnyy Rayon?

[Aushev] I don't think that will happen. We must hold talks, primarily with the leadership of Ossetia itself. There are competent people there.

[Kholodov] Will you form a national guard?

[Aushev] No. Legal armed formations will be formed. These being a Ministry of Internal Affairs and a patrol service.

Ingush Presidential Candidate Interviewed

MK2201104593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with Ruslan Aushev, Ingush presidential candidate, by Natalya Pachegina; place and date not given: "'The People Are Tired,' Ruslan Aushev Considers, and Intends To Impose Order in Ingushetia"]

[Text] On 17 January the Congress of Ingushetia Peoples, as is known, nominated Russian Army Major General Ruslan Aushev, hero of the Soviet Union, for the post of republic president. Immediately after making an official statement of his agreement to run for President Aushev answered NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's questions.

[Pachegina] Ruslan, are you not put out by the lack of competitors in the struggle for the presidency?

[Aushev] Yes, I am concerned by this fact. When it was reported that I was the sole nomination for president I was astonished: Surely among an entire people there must be more than one worthy to be president? I know, although I wasn't in Nazran at the time, that there were several candidacies, but I was told that the congress categorically rejected them. In general I would like there to be competition if only because then there would not be any innuendo along the lines that he won because he had no rivals.

I didn't go to the congress so that people wouldn't think that I was dreaming of becoming president. But when people caught up with me bringing with them 100,000 signatures saying that I should come back (Aushev is referring to the circumstances of his resignation from the post of acting head of administration in the Ingush Republic—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA) I immediately came home, called a public meeting, and spoke on radio

and television. I said that as an Ingush and a citizen I am always with my people and ready to share all their difficulties.

[Pachegina] But, I recall, at the time you were firm and didn't return to the post of head of the Interim Administration in the Ingush Republic. Was this a political ploy?

[Aushev] No way. You will recall that I was compelled to leave that post by the situation in the republic. I was unable to do anything for the people even though I appeared to have the power. But in general I think that the Ingush people must have a leader to whom the authority of the people has been transferred... So that he can feel the people breathing over his shoulder and be responsible for everything that happens in the republic. So that he always looks not "upward" but toward the people. And my words struck a chord in Nazran, and...

[Pachegina] You will obviously be setting off on a preelection tour of the republic.

[Aushev] Why? Everybody there knows me inside out. Why bother, when everything is clear...

[Pachegina] What do you think about the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decision to schedule the Ingush Republic presidential elections for 28 February?

[Aushev] Whatever happens I will fulfill my people's wishes.

[Pachegina] Should your statement about the inadvisability of having political parties in Ingushetia be regarded as future policy?

[Aushev] Why? I was only talking about the period of the state of emergency. Suspending the activity of these parties in this kind of situation can only benefit the republic because I believe that the radicalism of some of them is partly the reason for the tragedy that has happened there. Later perhaps when everything has settled down as many parties as you like can be created. Let there be a political struggle over a law on the parties; that will be normal. At the time I was merely fulfilling the people's will.

[Pachegina] Does nobody in the republic including you think it strange to have a military man as president?

[Aushev] You know, I don't think there's anything bad about this. In my view we military men feel more keenly for the people than the politicians do. I am convinced that if before the events happened I had had the opportunity to influence their course there would not have been such a great tragedy.

[Pachegina] When the republic has a president of its own what will happen to the Interim Administration in Nazran?

[Aushev] I think it will have to resign.

I wish to come back to the subject of a general as head of state. A military man regards discipline as something sacred. And people, particularly in Ingushetia, are tired to death at the lack of authority and lack of laws which have been reigning here for two years. What they need now is discipline. They want to be governed. Incidentally, I observed this trend throughout the former Union. Look at the Dniester region—Sanya Lebed is trusted there. He immediately made a start against corruption, which is not such an easy thing to do. I know that Valera Ochirov, candidate for the Kalmykia presidency, is also a general and hero of the Soviet Union. We know each other from Afghanistan. There is an obvious trend, as they say. People have already seen enough of both partyocrats and democrats.

[Pachegina] Do you share the congress' decision about the need to withdraw Russian troops from the territory of Ingushetia?

[Aushev] Of course I do, what are they doing there? There's nothing for them to do in Ingushetia. Especially on the borders with Chechnya. What kind of... excuse me, are they doing there? Any provocation could be the start of a war. I personally don't find convincing the argument that the troops are preventing arms being brought in: Anybody who needs to will find a way to get weapons across any borders. Admittedly I do agree that the troops should remain where there is a mixed population of Ingush and Ossetians.

[Pachegina] Will the talks with the North Ossetian leadership continue after you are elected?

[Aushev] Without fail. Nobody else is going to solve this problem apart from us. It won't be solved "from on high." But of course it will require Russian mediation. Moscow must be the judge.

[Pachegina] Maybe this question is somewhat premature, but will Ingushetia, which has advocated union with Russia, remain true to its decision?

[Aushev] This depends on how the question of Prigorodnyy Rayon is resolved. Furthermore the republic as a component of the Federation must sign the Federation Treaty, in which a number of powers are delegated to the center. Ingush are prepared to accept that this may be uncomfortable for them but let the Russian authorities tell the truth, no matter how bitter it may be, in accordance with the Law on the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples.

Head of N. Ossetia, Ingushetia Administration Interviewed

PM2501161393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 1

[Interview with Major General Aleksandr Kotenkov, head of the interim administration of North Ossetia and

Ingushetia, by A. Yevtushenko; place and date not given: "The Caucasus Awaits Spring With Trepidation"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Our correspondent met with Major General Aleksandr Kotenkov, head of the interim administration of North Ossetia and Ingushetia and chief of the State-Legal Administration of the Russian Federation president.

[Yevtushenko] Aleksandr Alekseyevich, how likely is it that the belief you recently expressed concerning the possible renewal of hostilities between the Ingush and the Ossetians in spring will come true?

[Kotenkov] We are not the only ones—the entire Caucasus is awaiting the arrival of spring with trepidation. When the snow melts, it will expose the corpses of many people who are considered missing at the moment. It is not hard to predict the reaction of their relatives. Second, Prigorodnyy Rayon is the most fertile land in North Ossetia. If no harvest is reaped there, there will be nothing to eat. And who will work on it and sow it in spring? The Ossetians? The Ingush? In any case, this is liable to result in a renewal of the conflict. There is another factor that might cause the situation to explode—the refugees. There are around 60,000 of them in Ingushetia alone—almost one-third of the republic's entire population.

[Yevtushenko] Prigorodnyy Rayon divides the territory of the Ingush Republic into separate parts. How are the Ingush to live?

[Kotenkov] Indeed, at the moment you cannot go from one part of Ingushetia to the other without crossing North Ossetia. But the problem of the division of Nazranovskiy Rayon will be resolved—work that had almost petered out to construct a road connecting Dzheyrakhskoye ravine with the main territory of Ingushetia will begin, or rather will continue in the summer. But, no matter how painful it might be for one of the sides to hear this, Prigorodnyy Rayon is the territory of North Ossetia. Changes will be made in accordance with the Law on the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples—I will implement them.

[Yevtushenko] What is your attitude toward presidential elections in the new Ingush Republic?

[Kotenkov] By law, elections, rallies, and meetings are not permitted in a state of emergency zone. But on the other hand, how can I prevent it? By exerting force? It is absurd. Even if we blockade the building where people gather, they will find another place to go.

However, it must be clear that no elections of this type will have a legitimate basis. The new republic does not even have its own constitution. In principle, no one knows what the organs of power there will be like at all yet. Can you imagine, on the basis of these actions, a so-called head of administration of Ingushetia now appearing? And being able to start work on the creation of parallel structures? And after all, a head of the republic administration and organs of administration already exist. How have similar measures ended in other republics—in Chechnya, Georgia, Tajikistan? In bloodshed, the violent overthrow of legitimate power, chaos. Ruslan Aushev is a worthy man. But if he wants to become head of state, this must be done in accordance with the law and when the state of emergency regime has ended.

[Yevtushenko] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet recently decreed that all illegal armed formations, including the North Ossetia national guard, would be dissolved. The Ossetian parliament has expressed its protest and is not in a hurry to disband its guard. One of its arguments is that, since Chechnya is recognized by the congress as part of the Russian Federation, why is Russia turning a blind eye to the existence of Chechen armed forces?

[Kotenkov] The whole problem is that we ignored Chechnya for too long. We pretended that there was no problem, that there was a Chechen-Ingush Republic within the Russian Federation. Thanks to this ostrich-style policy, it is now hard to tell what the Chechen Republic constitutes at all. I cannot say that Dudayev's power is legitimate—it is not part of any framework. That is why the creation of its own armed forces is unlawful from the point of view of the Russian Constitution. But I am leaving this problem alone. It is up to parliament to decide what Chechnya constitutes and how mutual relations with it should be formed. The latest trip that Shakhray and Abdulatipov made there raises hopes.

As for all the rest of the territory of the Russian Federation and all its constituent parts, any armed formations here, with the exception of Ministry of Internal Affairs subunits, are unlawful. And, having signed the Federation Treaty voluntarily, North Ossetia delegated all questions connected with defense and security to the Russian federal organs. Thus, Ossetia must either retract its signature from the Federation Treaty or adhere to its provisions.

Nikolay Travkin Interviewed on Reforms

PM2501092593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Jan 93 First Edition pp 1, 4

[Interview with Nikolay Travkin, administration head of Moscow Oblast's Shakhovskiy Rayon, conducted by Vladimir Dyudin under the "Emphasis" rubric; place and date not given: "Nikolay Travkin: People Must Not Be Browbeaten, They Must Come to Understand the Need for Changes"]

[Excerpt] [Dyudin] The Seventh Congress of People's Deputies was not yet over, but persistent rumors were already circulating through your rayon that you, Nikolay Ilich, had been offered the post of vice premier in the new government and that you were leaving the rayon...

[Travkin] I appreciate that various rumors can arise when you are absent from congresses for a long time, although those rumors began long before the congress. During that time, if you believe various newspapers, I had already tried out many posts, including vice premier in charge of agriculture. I should say that those rumors were overexaggerated, I have expressed no intention to stop working as administration head of Moscow Oblast's Shakhovskiy Rayon and do not intend to go off anywhere.

[Dyudin] Could you sum up in a few words the results of the Congress of People's Deputies? Do you agree with Khasbulatov's assessment that "The work was intense, but constructive and businesslike."

[Travkin] Various assessment are possible. You can say that it was simply a large rally which produced no result. You can give an assessment like Ruslan Imranovich. The truth is most likely somewhere in between. The congress is not the kind of formation wherein decisions can be elaborated. A decision can be elaborated by a few people and can be discussed by several dozen; but when thousands of people sit down, they can say only whether a decision is good or bad. The congress is not in a position to elaborate a decision. However, it is forced to do this work. And it has done it, naturally, very badly.

We can immediately see that the congress made no specific modifications to the economic program. It replaced, to use medical terminology, a surgeon with a therapeutist. Although perhaps only the prescription needed changing. But I see the congress' great achievement as lying elsewhere. Hitherto we had spoken about civil society and the democratic structure of society as abstract concepts. The congress demonstrated that all three branches of power do exist in Russia. True, a fight broke out between the first two branches, but, thank God, there were no victors.

[Dyudin] The congress adopted a decision to hold a referendum on 11 April. What is the objective in holding this referendum and what is the crux of it?

[Travkin] Initially the actual idea of the referendum was expressed by the president in the following vein: The congress is bad, it has to be dispersed. But I will disperse it within the constitutional framework. I am leaving the hall. Follow me, deputies. But for form's sake we will still say in the referendum that you are bad. The president is good, but bad luck for the congress.

First, only 53 deputies, according to the records, followed the president out. All the others to be seen on the screen were not Russian Federation people's deputies. That is to say, the congress was not wrecked. And the referendum itself was the result of a compromise.

That is to say, if the president insists—let's hold a referendum. Only not to sort out whether it is a "good congress" or a "good president," but in conformity with the decisions taken back at the First Congress of People's Deputies that the basic provisions of the new Constitution must be submitted to discussion by all the people.

At the end of April the congress will assemble and continue its work on the Constitution, based on what people will have said, with the aim of adopting it by some date in the second half of 1993.

[Dyudin] Did Civic Union, which made serious preparations for the Congress of People's Deputies, succeed in realizing the ideas and proposals (particularly the economic program) which the bloc presented to the congress? And now that the congress is over and we have a new prime minister and cabinet of ministers, what will be the priorities in Civic Union's actions?

[Travkin] Civic Union did not act as a violent opponent of the president and power. Its proposals did not change the course of the reforms, they altered their speed. They have made the speed more realistic.

The proposals made modifications to the tactics of the reforms. Most of them became part of the program expounded by Yegor Gaydar. If you look at the Russian president's report, it was closer to the Civic Union report than to Gaydar's. And there are things there which don't tally. This may have occurred again from a desire to make some promises. For example, the proposal there to index completely our savings which had been ruined as a result of the liberalization of prices.

In other words, if you are talking about program matters, the approaches of the government and Civic Union did come together. But we have become adept at writing programs now, and I pin no special hopes on them. Today the snag is the people who will put them into practice. Are they capable of realizing what kind of economic mechanism they are dealing with?

The problem of the preceding government was that they did not know precisely those features of the economy. And they did not want to know them, because the task set was to smash the old economic mechanism. And given that you are going to smash it, anyway, what's the point of knowing about its individual components? Therefore Civic Union proposed that certain officials leave the government. But this did not apply to Gaydar. And in the initial stages of talks Gaydar remained as the basis for compromises. When no reciprocal steps were forthcoming, everything centred on Gaydar, because the issue was: If Gaydar remains, nothing will change. Consequently, Gaydar had to be changed and a guarantee thereby obtained that we would be able to modify the course of further reforms. Gaydar was replaced. But you should not pin overhigh hopes on government reshuffles.

Ultimately, the result will depend more on how we operate at local level rather than on how things are decided at the top. This also applies to Shakhovksiy Rayon. Ninety percent of everything will depend on how we start working. [passage omitted]

Chechnya Prepares 2 Drafts of Agreement With Russia

OW2401135693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chechnya prepared two drafts of its agreement with Russia on dividing powers and delegating them to each other, IF [INTERFAX] learned from sources in Chechnya's parliament. The decision to sign the agreement was taken on January 14, during a visit to Groznyy by Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray. The author of one draft is Yusup Soslanbekov, chairman of the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs; the other draft was written by Chechnya's Foreign Ministry.

The two drafts will be submitted to a working group to finalize the agreement in the next few days. They provide for building relations between Russia and Chechnya on the basis of parity.

According to parliamentary sources in Groznyy, a Chechen delegation is expected to leave for Moscow in late January. It will include 13 people, Soslanbekov among them.

According to the understanding reached on January 14, the agreement is to be initialled in early February. It is to define what powers will be executed together, and what will belong exclusively to the competence of Moscow or Groznyy. Russia and Chechnya intend to preserve a unified economic, defence, cultural and information space.

Dniester Region Reportedly To Form Own Army

LD2301092593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] The BUSINESS newspaper reports that president of the Dniester region, Igor Smirnov, speaking at a conference held by the (?Elit) financial and industrial corporation—one of the largest light industry enterprises—stated that the Dniester region is in the process of creating its own army. Journalists were not allowed to be present at the meeting. We received this information from the EXPRESS-KHRONIKA agency.

Bashkir Premier on Russian Treaty Prospects

MK2201110093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with Anatoliy Kopsov, chairman of the Bashkortostan Council of Ministers, by Radik Batyrshin; place and date not given: "Treaty With Ufa Is Advantageous to Russia: Anatoliy Kopsov, Chairman of the Republic Council of Ministers, Is Confident of This"]

[Text] [Batyrshin] You became chairman of the republic Council of Ministers almost simultaneously with Viktor Chernomyrdin's appointment as head of the Russian Government. How does your program differ from the Russian premier's program?

[Kopsov] I am not familiar with Viktor Chernomyrdin's program in full. But judging by his remarks, our positions coincide more than they differ. Like him, I am a supporter of deepening the reforms, but I think they should be implemented sensibly, without extremism, taking today's realities into account. The reforms must be implemented, but without forgetting how they will affect the population's position.

[Batyrshin] A lot of people talk about protecting the population's interests. But the problem is how to do it.

[Kopsov] We are currently redirecting subsidies from the republic budget. Whereas formerly we subsidized the producers of food products, thereby artificially containing prices, we will now targeting the investments. These funds will be channeled toward the needy population strata in the form of social allowances. For instance, if the milk price goes up 30 rubles [R], this money will be paid to the needy.

[Batyrshin] What are the main problems that exist today in relations between Russia and Bashkortostan?

[Kopsov] First and foremost there is the volume of taxes paid into the Russian Federation budget, the demarcation between republic and federal property, and quotas for exports of Bashkir products. During the recent talks a compromise was reached on this last problem, admittedly only for this year.

[Batyrshin] Do you not think that Russia's new premier takes a tougher line than Yegor Gaydar toward the oil-producing republics?

[Kopsov] I would not say that. I met with Viktor Chernomyrdin in Ufa when he was vice premier, and even then he was advocating transferring the maximum possible rights to the territories. Because you cannot manage everything from the center.

[Batyrshin] But no end to the talks between Russia and Bashkortostan is in sight.

[Kopsov] True, the fact that the talks are dragging on, or rather, have been broken off for a time, has brought an element of uncertainty to our relations.

[Batyrshin] What do you understand by the republic's economic sovereignty?

[Kopsov] To me, it means a single-track budget system for Bashkortostan and export quotas for our products defined by a treaty with the Russian Federation, which would enable the republic to develop normally. The republic should act autonomously to develop whatever economic relations are advantageous to it.

[Batyrshin] Do you think the center has an interest in the speediest conclusion of a bilateral treaty?

[Kopsov] There may be no burning interest, but I see no insuperable obstacles. Both Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin are sober- minded politicians, and I think it suits them to remove the existing contradictions in a future treaty.

[Batyrshin] The Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet Presidium decision to raise the nominal price of privatization checks issued on your territory to R40,000 brought the republic much publicity. Why was this done?

[Kopsov] The process of privatizing enterprises had begun to get out of control. And inflation had become so rapid that at the end of the year enterprises had begun to be sold for next to nothing. Wages increased tenfold and more, yet the value of fixed capital stayed the same. For instance the capital value of that giant, the Ufa Motor Building Association (which produces engines for the Moskvich and for aircraft—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA note), became equivalent to the scrap metal price. It was therefore decided to index-link the value of capital, and thus to increase the price of checks.

[Batyrshin] On becoming premier, you submitted your candidacy as a republic people's deputy. Why?

[Kopsov] As general director of the "Bashkirenergo" production association, I had a splendid opportunity to become a deputy. But I thought a deputy's job would get in the way of my work as leader of an enterprise. Therefore I did not run at all. But in my new job my work frequently depends on the results of voting at the Supreme Soviet, and it will be better if I am on that side of the barrier that divides deputies from the government.

[Batyrshin] Crude oil extraction in Bashkortostan is falling from year to year. What will the republic's exports be in the future?

[Kopsov] In view of the fact that this year the center has set us reduced quotas for crude oil exports, we will increase the proportion of output from the petrochemical complex and machine building. Thus we are now ready to sell 50 self-propelled guns from the Sterlitamak Machine Building Plant.

[Batyrshin] Can the republic do without Russian investments in Bashkortostan's military-industrial complex, which were a very powerful trump card for the center?

[Kopsov] In 1993 there are no such investments from Russia. We have defined the republic conversion program and decided to finance only those projects that will produce a return in 1993-1994.

International Affairs

Ministry Calls Black Sea Fleet Decision 'Interference'

OW2601112093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said, on Monday [25 January], that the demands of the general officers' assembly of the Black Sea Fleet violate agreements between Russia and Ukraine on the fleet and that they constituted interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine. The released document also notes that the settlement of problems between Kiev and Moscow is outside the competence of the officers' assembly. The service expressed hope that the command of the Black Sea Fleet would "react appropriately to the assembly's resolution."

The assembly, which took place on January 21, in Sevastopol, demanded the preservation of a united Russo-Ukrainian fleet on the Black Sea, the withdrawal of the Ukrainian naval headquarters from the port (the main port of the Black Sea), and the recognition of Sevastopol as the main naval base of the unified fleet.

Interfax has further learned, from the press center of the Black Sea Fleet that the Black Sea Fleet command has received a telegram from Colonel-General Konstyantyin Morozov in which he expressed readiness to meet with the command of the Black Sea Fleet to discuss problems raised by the officers' assembly.

Morozov To Meet Fleet Commanders

LD2601134093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1241 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Sevastopol January 26 TASS—Ukrainian Defence Minister Colonel-General Konstyantyn Morozov has expressed readiness to meet commanders of the Black Sea Navy in order to discuss the problems raised by the recent officers' assembly of the Black Sea Fleet. Such a telegram, ITAR-TASS was told today at the press centre of the Black Sea Fleet, was received by the naval command on Monday [25 January].

An assembly of Black Sea Navy officers addressed messages to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine on January 21, moving to leave the fleet as a single entity and to grant Sevastopol the status of the joint fleet's main naval base.

Plyushch Letter to Russia's Khasbulatov on Sevastopol

AU2601093893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Jan 93 p 2

[Letter to "R.I. Khasbulatov, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation" from I. Plyushch, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council; in Kiev, 19 January]

[Text] Esteemed Ruslan Imranovich,

It is my sincere alarm for the fate and the future of relations between Russia and Ukraine that has compelled me to turn to you with this letter.

There have been dark and light sides to the history of our peoples, and joyful and tragic pages. However, it is apparent that nobody has ever managed to set the two great peoples against one another.

The disintegration of the USSR is a natural consequence of a policy that did not bring happiness to either the Russian or Ukrainian peoples.

Many peoples have restored their statehood out of the ruins of the Soviet empire. For the first time in history, a Russian democratic state has been proclaimed, a state that renounces the former imperial policy. It might seem that there is no way back, because we are living in the last decade of the 20th century in conditions of civilized democratic international law.

Unfortunately, we can see that quite a number of influential political figures in the Russian Federation are again trying to pass decisions through the country's state bodies, including the Supreme Council, decisions that are aimed at restoring the old empire and the old imperial policy, which used to bring suffering and bloodshed to many peoples, including the Ukrainian people.

We cannot view the provocations that are continuing around the "problem" of Sevastopol other than attempts to cause a confrontation between the two peoples and to shed their blood. Everybody who respects the law and international regulations realizes that this problem is far-reaching. It is known to us that a commission headed by E.K Pudovkin has been created at the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation to "study" this problem. The continuation of the activity of this commission will not add authority to the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation, because there is no juridical justification for interfering into the internal affairs of a neighboring state—Ukraine—or for seizing its lands. Such actions will only lead to an aggravation of relations between the two states and will do harm to our two peoples.

The fastest possible suspension of the activity of the aforementioned commission would be highly appraised by the world community as a convincing sign of good

will, confirming in reality the striving of the Russian democratic state to live in peace and harmony with all of its neighbors.

Fate has decided that our peoples should live in close proximity to each other. Only the road toward cooperation and mutual respect, not the road of provocations and of arousing mutual hostility and hatred, conforms to their interests and their future.

Yours with deep respect,
I. Plyushch
Kiev, 19 January 1993

Blue Berets Contingent Leaves for Bosnia

LD2601121793 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Ukrainian blue berets are leaving Nikolayev today for Yugoslavia. Thus, the first stage of the rotation of Ukraine's peacekeeping forces within the United Nations begins. The NOVOSTI tele-radio agency was informed at the Ministry of Defense that soldiers in their second year of service have made up the new contingent on a voluntary basis. They have had the relevant training [words indistinct] will have to control the situation. First, a change of approximately 150 servicemen of the Ukrainian battalion in Sarajevo will take place.

Ambassador to Ukraine Discusses Relations With Kiev

OW2601121093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Ambassador to Ukraine, Leonid Smolyakov, believes that the problem of dual citizenship between Ukraine and Russia "has been ripening for some time," and its resolution must be translated into "practical directions." Appearing on Monday [25 January] at a press conference in Simferopol, the ambassador reported that experts would soon be assigned to the problem.

Smolyakov also stated that there exists for Russia a Crimean problem to which the president and the Supreme Council have different approaches.

The ambassador emphasized that "Russia recognizes the territorial integrity of Ukraine and has no plans to take measures to destabilize the situation on its territory." He also noted that there had been an "active rapprochement" on the question between the presidents of Russia and Ukraine which was affirmed at their last meeting in Moscow.

Smolyakov also expressed Moscow's concern with Ukraine's serious economic crisis on the eve of the sowing. He reported that Russia's utilities would help "end the energy famine in Ukraine."

On the evening of January 25, Smolyakov left Simferopol for Sevastopol, where he plans to meet with Ivan Yermakov, the Ukrainian presidential representative in Sevastopol, and with the command of the Black Sea Fleet.

U.S. Peace Corps Envoys To Help Set Up Enterprises

LD2601120793 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Fifty U.S. Peace Corps envoys have arrived in Ukraine. They are [word indistinct], lawyers, and businessmen who will provide necessary help in organizing small enterprises in our country. At the beginning of February, the U.S. specialists will go to [word indistinct] addresses to state and private enterprises. They will receive the same wages as Ukrainian specialists. The contract envisages that the representatives of the Peace Corps will teach the methods of modern business to our managers and entrepreneurs.

American Business Center To Open in Kiev

LD2501133093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Roman Popadyuk, the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, and (Melnychuk), director of the Ukrainian State Scientific Research and Planning Institute for Oil, have signed an agreement on opening an American business center in Kiev. It will contribute to the establishment of contacts between Ukrainian and American businessmen. In particular it will give them information on the dynamics of the market in the two countries.

Agreement on Space Cooperation Signed With Russia

WS2501133893 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 19 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report from the "Ukraine and the World" column: "Space Cannot Be Conquered Without Ukraine"]

[Text] Among all the republics of the former USSR, Ukraine has the priority in the production of space rockets. This was proved again by the agreement on economic and scientific cooperation, joint production and exploitation of the space rocket equipment signed between the Russian Federation Committee for Defense Industries and the Ukrainian Ministry of Machine Building, Military-Industrial Complex and Conversion.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Speaks on Political Situation, Combating Crime

WS2501134093 Kiev IMENEM ZAKONU in Ukrainian 15 Jan 93 p 2

["Excerpts" from Ukrainian President Kravchuk's speech at the session of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Board on 25 December 1992]

[Text] **1. On the Political Situation in Ukraine**

The situation in Ukraine is complicated. Political and economic processes that are under way in the CIS countries, first of all in Russia, cannot fail to influence the state of things in Ukraine....

The Supreme Soviet is working hard and thus is helping to stabilize the situation.

Certain political forces are trying to force Ukraine into signing the agreement that is very much like the Union Treaty of 1922. There can be only one answer: the 1 December 1991 referendum determined the political stance of the Ukrainian president. Ukraine must be an independent state. Only the people can alter the president's course. I must fulfill the people's will.

2. On the Necessity of Strengthening the Battle Against Crime

First of all, I am concerned with combating organized crime. Corruption and bribes are penetrating into the structures of our ministries and departments. A group of corrupt high level officials from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations has recently been revealed.

The appropriate department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been showing good results in this field. It might prove helpful to make the deputy minister responsible for the activity of the Main Inter Regional Department for Combating Organized Crime.

The people are very concerned. I heard people saying: "We can put up with economic hardships but not with crime!"

3. On the Forms and Methods of Combating Crime

There have been reasonable proposals on the creation of the Council for National Security, which would coordinate all the crime combating activities. I support such a council.

I think it is high time we created mobile groups to fight crime in the street, at railroad stations, and hotels. I know such units have been operating in the West for a long time and they are staffed with unmarried policemen due to the danger of the job. I hope that in the near future, we will have two different militias in Ukraine—the criminal (organs of internal affairs) and municipal.

4. On the Tasks of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

We believe in our militia and think highly of their work. You, dear comrades, prevented bloodshed at the time of political conflicts in our Republic.

There is hard work ahead of you. The main objective today is the concentration of efforts for the revelation of crimes, protection of public order, introduction of complex measures on the removal of illegally owned weapons, and the observation of the passport regime.

Unfortunately, in this situation of economic decline we cannot give you substantial aid, but we will do our best.

We must survive the hard times and work on for Ukraine's well-being.

I am pleased that neither the minister nor the board fear responsibility for combating crime.

Rukh Leader Interviewed on Current Situation

WS2501133993 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 14 Jan 93 p 4

[Interview with Rukh Chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil by T. Shamayda: "The Year of Lost Opportunities"]

[Text] [Shamayda] You called 1992 "the year of lost opportunities" for the administration. What did it bring Rukh?

[Chornovil] It was not too good for Rukh either. But there is a logical explanation for this. We were regearing along different lines. The option was either to disappear like similar organizations in other countries (it is enough to mention the disintegration of Baltic national fronts and "Sajudis", the decadence of Polish "Solidarity") or to preserve Rukh as a mass organization. Fighting for statehood was one thing. Different independence oriented forces were consolidated. Activity under conditions of state independence, when certain differentiation of forces is bound to take place, is something else. It was a tough process but we managed to overcome the crisis. Rukh survived by choosing a reasonable blend of a clearly determined party and a mass public movement.

We are beginning to build up our strength as an opposition but constructive force. A number of programs and legislative projects testify to this, first of all, the State Creation Program adopted last December at the Fourth All Ukrainian Congress. The active participation of all Rukh members in the elaboration of the program shows that they had accepted this strategy.

[Shamayda] For the full realization of this program, the Ukrainian administration should be changed, at least the legislature which opposes Rukh reformation proposals. But the coalition "New Ukraine—New Legislature" has not succeeded in collecting the 3 million signatures necessary for holding the referendum on early elections.

[Chornovil] I would not call our referendum campaign a failure. Due to it, we managed to overthrow the corrupt Mafioso government of Vitold Fokin. The campaign, in fact, started with the government issue and only after the Supreme Soviet refused to consider the impeachment question did we begin to campaign for new Supreme Soviet elections.

Speaking about 3 million signatures, I must say they are almost impossible to collect considering the terrible restrictions and complications. It requires immense efforts. But during the past three months, we have had a good training and a chance to see our drawbacks. We have decided to repeat the campaign. I think in 1993 it will be a success.

[Shamayda] If you succeed and the referendum is held, what in your view will it mean for Ukraine?

[Chornovil] First of all, a new legislature will be elected, composed of professionals, with distinct faction division. Even if we fail to introduce the quota system, all the same there will be no overwhelming communist domination in the legislature, which came into existence after the 1990 elections. I am rejecting silly opinions that the new legislature might be worse than the present one. Less than a half of the democrats may be elected, but a lot of pragmatic people are bound to come, and it will be easier to find a common language with them unlike with the apparatchiks. Former party functionaries make up three-fourths of the current legislature, but they have no chance in the next elections. This is why we are demanding new elections as soon as possible, being sure that the new legislature will launch deep and complex reforms that we badly need.

[Shamayda] Today communist forces are getting more and more active, making use of the social tension and unpopular, although necessary measures of the Kuchma government. What should Rukh's strategy be in order to win people's support and at the same time to avoid primitive populism, to maintain the course at the democratic reforms?

[Chornovil] We should go to the people and explain that under the tough circumstances, we cannot avoid hardships. But we should also watch over the government: a certain social protection framework should be established. The money won in the government's war with the Mafia may be directed to the poorest people—disabled, pensioners, and the like. The government's firmness should be praised, it is necessary, but certain measures are also needed to show the people that the government does not forget about them, and that these measures are taken for the wellbeing of the nation.

The government will have to take strict measures curbing social programs; this must happen. Our political adversaries have found themselves in an advantageous situation. They brought the country to ruin, escaped responsibility for the disastrous actions of the Fokin government, and for all the sins are blaming either democrats, who still do not have access to power, or the new government which spares no efforts to overcome the acute crisis.

[Shamayda] May 1993 become another "year of lost opportunities?"

[Chornovil] It will take at least a year to stop the economic decline and achieve an increase at least in the basic branches. This year does not promise to be easy. But I do not think it will become another year of lost opportunities. The previous year has taught us a lesson, and we will not commit the same mistakes again.

Reacts to NEW YORK TIMES Article on START

WS2501133793 Kiev RADA in Ukrainian 14 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report from the "News and Facts" column]

[Text] Rukh Chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil expressed his indignation at THE NEW YORK TIMES editorial published on 11 January 1992. In this article, THE NEW YORK TIMES editor suggests that newly elected President Bill Clinton declare Ukraine "an international outcast," isolating it and depriving it of any economic aid if it keeps postponing the ratification of the START treaty. In the view of the editor, Ukraine's demands for more guarantees on the side of the West and for financial aid to destroy the nuclear arms are "excessive and groundless." V. Chornovil pointed out that this publication was a display of the "imperial ambitions of the United States" and an "outright blackmail attempt." The Rukh chairman said: "This is more proof of the fact that America's imperial forces do not need a strong and independent Ukraine. These forces are rather interested in the preservation of weak former Soviet republics devoid of their own policy and objectives."

Rukh Leader Expresses 'Alarm' Over Procommunist Activity

AU2601131593 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Ukraine's Independent Information Agency "Respublika": "There Will Be No Violent Confrontation"]

[Text] Oleksandr Lavrynovych, deputy chairman of Ukraine's People's Rukh [Movement for Perestroyka] has held a news conference in the building of Ukraine's Writers Union. He expressed alarm over the fact that procommunist forces have become active again. The Ukraine's People's Rukh fully supports the position of Ukraine's president in declining to sign the CIS Statute and insisting on the inadmissibility of restoring Ukraine's Communist Party and also supports the government's reform policy and the first steps on the road toward their implementation. Oleksandr Lavrynovych declared that the Ukraine's People's Rukh is opposed to

criminal proceedings against Ukraine's Communist Party and the CPSU, but seeks the public exposure of criminal actions committed by Ukraine's Communist Party and the CPSU. On this occasion, Lavrynovych said: "Rukh is not enthusiastic about the idea of a Communist revival. We will do everything in order to prevent the renewal of Ukraine's Communist Party. However, there will be no violent confrontation."

Sevastopol 'Practically at War' With Government

LD2501132593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Sevastopol is pschologically practically at war with the Ukrainian leadership. This was announced at a rally in Sevastopol by one of the leaders of the Crimea's republican movement. The people at the rally demanded abolition of the institution of Ukrainian presidential representatives in the city. They also demanded that the Russian Supreme Soviet be requested to take Sevastopol under Russian jurisdiction.

Sevastopol Leader Airs Current Problems

LD2501225693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1710 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vadim Burkin]

[Text] Sevastopol (Crimea), 25 January—Problems of the socio-political, economic, and ecological situation in Sevastopol were discussed today at the first meeting of representatives of all political parties and public movements of the town. The meeting was lead by Chairman of the Town Soviet Viktor Semenov. Representatives of the trade unions and veterans' organizations spoke in favor of consolidation of the parties and movements at a difficult time for Sevastopol, by tackling the economic and ecological problems. Leaders of the town's committee of the National Salvation Front demanded an end to victimization of the leaders of some movements and parties.

After the meeting, in a conversation with the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Viktor Semenov described the main problems of Sevastopol as issues of the economic survival of the town which cannot draft its budget independently, because Sevastopol is on a subsidy and the economic links of enterprises geared toward the military-industrial complex have been ruptured. The town's "sore point," the chairman said, is social provision for the population, including the 120,000 veterans and pensioners comprising a quarter of Sevastopol's population, and also the socio-political situation in the town, connected with the division of the Black Sea Fleet.

Viktor Semenov said that under the accords between Russia and Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet, what is needed is the conclusion of a bilateral agreement on urgent joint measures for supplying Sevastopol with energy resources and developing its infrastructure. Some of the problens will be examined and, possibly, resolved at the coming session of the town soviet.

Parliament Develops Socioeconomic Stabilization Plan

OW2501180693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its Monday [25 January] morning session, the Ukrainian parliament adopted, in substance, the resolution "On the Socioeconomic Situation in Ukraine and Stabilization Measures."

The statement notes that the government's precipitous adoption of a number of decrees had produced further social strain in the republic. Therefore, the parliament recommends to the government:—by March 1, to approve the size of the minimal consumer budget and determine the poverty level, as well as develop a mechanism for raising minimal wages and pensions; —during the stabilization period, to establish fixed prices for milk, butter milk, bologna, groats, salt, sugar, vegetable oil, and address options for rationing these products; —to introduce changes in some of the government's recent decrees, in particular, ban sales of land which has been purchased from the state for private enterprise; to annul the VAT [value added tax] from children's goods, medicines, medical equipment, and agricultural produce; —to accelerate the processing of mutual accounts among Ukrainian and Russian enterprises (this proposal being equivalent to recommending that Ukrainian enterprises cancel pre-payment for produce supplied to Russia, which measure, in the words of the RUKH leader Mr Chernovil at the session, would be tantamount to an act of "state treason").

The resolution also stipulates that the government present parliament with a plan of action by January 29, as well as its budget plan for 1993. Reports by the Ukrainian president and the government on the political and social situation in the republic, according to the document, are to be presented to the parliament in February.

Lugansk, Donetsk Deputies Press for Special Session

PM2501122593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 1

[Anatoliy Polyakov report under the "From Our News Bureau" rubric: "Economic Crisis in Ukraine Threatens To Escalate Into Power Crisis"]

[Text] Kiev—People's deputies from Lugansk, Donetsk, and other Ukrainian cities and oblasts have insisted on holding an extraordinary Supreme Soviet session.

The speakers cited depressing examples of management by the "new power." According to Prime Minister

Leonid Kuchma, the budget deficit, previously planned at 54 billion "ersatz coupons," has reached the astronomic figure of 1.325 trillion coupons, and national income has fallen 14 percent.

In response to maneuvers by members of Rukh who tried to block the session's work, the deputies declared that they would convene their own session, at which they would repeal the former decision on the constitution and the state symbols and urge the people to hold an all-Ukrainian strike. After this the Donetsk and Lugansk deputies left the sessions hall.

Vice Premier Discusses Problems Facing Agriculture

OW2301164993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's vice-premier in charge of agriculture and related industries, Vladymyr Demyanov, described the situation in Ukrainian agriculture as appalling. He told representatives of the Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye and Lugansk regions on Saturday that in 1992 the production of all kinds of agricultural produce went down by 20-25 per cent.

He also said that the Ukrainian Cabinet is seeking ways of improving the situation in agriculture in 1993 and will pass a series of related decrees, including those pertaining to the financial and crediting sphere.

"One should pay for agricultural produce what it is worth," he stated. The results of 1992 showed that control over purchasing prices on agricultural produce, given the uncontrollable price-rise on other goods, "leaves milk factories without milk and meat factories without meat", he added.

The Cabinet will do everything it can to change property relations in the agricultural sector, he promised.

He also pointed out that the government was drafting a decree on land utilization which envisages sanctions for using it thoughtlessly.

Doubt Expressed Over Loyalty of Officer Corps

LD2501212193 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] A considerable portion of the officer corps swore allegiance to the Ukrainian people out of mercantile considerations, expecting to resolve personal problems, in particular the housing problem. UKRINFORM informed us this was stated by Ukraine's Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov. Officers who took the oath expecting that the CIS Armed Forces would be united should stop serving in our army, noted the minister. It is impossible to serve in the Army of a sovereign state while at the same time submitting ideas about violating its sovereignty, stressed the defense minister.

Navy Officers End Visit to Ivano-Frankovsk

LD2501100893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] The visit to Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast by officers of the Naval Forces of Ukraine ended at the Kolomyya rayon center yesterday. They stayed in the Carpathian region at the invitation of the oblast state administration and the regional Rukh. The naval officers acquainted themselves with folk traditions, visited museums, and met with representatives of various sections of the population. They also studied the Ukrainian language and history at the Carpathian University.

Cossacks To Police Borders, Handle Customs

OW2501212493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1952 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Council of Ukrainian Cossacks' Chiefs in Odessa has made a number of decisions of primary importance for forming the structure of its movement. An economic center of Ukrainian Cossacks is expected to open in the near future. The Cossacks intend to perform customs and patrol activities together with law enforcement agencies.

The Council of the Chiefs decided to convene an extraordinary Grand Council of Ukrainian Cossacks on March 13-14th, since the lack of a charter, development concept and other basic documents hindered the formation of the movement.

Senior chief Yevgeniy Petrenko told the journalists that the council welcomed the decision by Ukrainian leaders not to sign the existing version of the draft CIS Charter in Minsk. He said that Cossacks supported a non-aligned, sovereign and independent Ukraine.

Government Considers Energy Supply Crisis Measures

OW2501212293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1951 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian government believes that if the power supply declines and deliveries of material and technical resources fall, a state of emergency will have to be imposed on the energy supply. A statement to that effect is contained in a package of measures to end the economic crisis which the Presidium of the Ukrainian Cabinet discussed on Monday. In case it is approved by the Cabinet on Tuesday, the plan will go before Parliament.

The main package of measures is aimed at overcoming fuel shortages. The plan reflects the critical situation in view of the likely fall in oil supply from 43 Mn [million] tons to 23-25 Mn in 1993 (the question of Russian oil

supplies was discussed at the Yeltsin-Kravchuk summit meeting in Moscow on January 15).

The shortage of energy resources may cause a fall in the supply of mineral fertilizers by 10 percent and of pesticides, metal products, farm equipment and spare parts by 50 percent. Production in the food industry may be down 20-25 percent and in the light industry, by 30 percent.

Besides, the government believes that reduced energy supplies to Ukraine may cause increased social tensions, more rapid inflation, and push unemployment up to 1.5 million.

The Ukrainian government plans to take measures this year to renew industrial management of the state sector of the economy and to reduce the number of industrial agencies, gradually withdraw state-run enterprises from the subordination of industrial ministries and agencies, create joint oil and gas extraction companies in Tyumen and other regions of the Russian Federation, build an oil terminal on the Black Sea and a tanker fleet, expand the extraction of domestic energy resources, and develop the nuclear power industry. The document says measures must be taken to make the Ukrainian economy less dependent on supplies from other CIS countries.

Incidentally, the list of measures provides for further privatization, a simpler system of external trade, greater effectiveness of foreign investment and a tough foreign currency regime. As of the beginning of 1993, customs control is going to be established along Ukraine's borders.

According to some forecasts for 1993, GNP is expected to total 13.6 Tn [trillion] karbovanets (in 1993 prices), and national revenues - 11.2 Tn karbovanets, which makes it possible to form a budget of 5.6 Tn karbovanets. On the other hand, government spending on certain social programs and the non-industrial sphere costs are estimated at 11.5 Mn karbovanets. This factor alone may cause inflation to rise to 500 percent a year.

In that connection the Ukrainian Cabinet is going to suggest measures in order to increase budget revenues and cut spending. The authors of the document believe it would be possible to form a government budget for 1993 with a deficit of 6 percent of GNP.

Belarus

Shushkevich Discusses Summit in 'Exclusive' Interview

OW2501192693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Interview with Parliament Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich by INTERFAX correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov; place and date not given; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his exclusive interview with Interfax correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov, Stanislav Shushkevich, the head of the Belarusian parliament, who chaired the summit, analyzes the results of the Minsk summit.

IF [INTERFAX]: According to many observers, the debates at the present summit were especially heated. Do you agree to this depiction of the summit's atmosphere?

SHUSHKEVICH: In outward appearance, it was the most calm one. There were neither emotional outbursts, nor categoric objections. However, in a deep sense, the summit appeared to be more rich in content than the previous meetings. I dare to say this because we were even forced to make the session a closed one in order to exchange opinions so that nobody could catch one phrase and then, irrespective of the context, create an agiotage and tension. To a certain extent, the discussions were actually deeper, richer in contents, more fruitful, and sharper. We openly presented out attitudes and precisely worded the interests of each country.

I was very glad that all leaders demonstrated their ability to rise above inner-state interests, having sacrificed a moment's happiness to satisfy their populist requirements for the sake of strategic purposes. We showed that we do not follow the tendencies popular within our countries nowadays and can find a formula for this or that state to gradually enter some kind of structure, while taking domestic specifications into account.

IF: There exists an opinion concerning the inefficiency of decisions adopted within the CIS - more than 250 documents have been approved and practically none of them work...

SHUSHKEVICH: It is the most commonplace phrase. It is even a habit of some state leaders. The majority of the agreements are in operation but the most important items of economic agreements do not work. To change the situation, it is necessary to master the decisions in practice. The economic agreements are the most important ones. The main issue is the issue concerning mutual accounts. It is necessary that blood is circulating within the economic system, which is in a transitional phase while moving to new principles of monetary accounts and calculations.

Let us analyze, why do primarily economic agreements not work? We have as many parliaments as we have countries. Each of them can adopt a decision about the volume of state debt and practically all these debts are expressed in Russian rubles. I would repeat that agreements will not work until we establish order in our fiscal-credit policies. Everything should be regulated and strictly worded, and professionals should govern this. That is why, I believe that the key solution is the approach to the functioning of the Interstate Bank. Of course, Russia cannot endure that in varying degrees Belarus, Uzbekistan, and Moldova will govern 75% of the capital! It cannot and it should not. We have found a new form: 50% of votes belong to Russia and ⅔ - to adopt decisions. Everybody agreed to this. It is a reasonable approach. Dictatorship is impossible when the role of Russian capital is properly considered. It is impossible to milk funds from Russia either. There probably exists a more optimal solution. Time will tell. But now we have found a way out which satisfies everybody. This is an achievement of the heads of governments and states on a professional level.

IF: The implementation of this concrete decision will face certain difficulties, won't it?

SHUSHKEVICH: Yes, it will. We should have patience. There must be some losses to bring order. Most likely enterprises leaders without bank notes from a Russian bank, will make various claims. CIS countries will probably have to correct tax policy as there cannot be different tax principles if we introduce the above-mentioned tough measures in the fiscal-credit sphere.

We entirely adhere to all provisions of the CIS Charter which concerns economic life. In this sphere the parties have already filtered everything which should be filtered and have developed a mechanism of sanctions, that is the economic court to which we are ready to send our representatives. Such a court is very useful for us from an economic point of view. And somebody actually abstains from the creation of this structure. If you analyze who has an active attitude and who a passive one then you can formulate a relation to the expediency of the court's establishment.

IF: The issue concerning strategic nuclear forces still remains open after the summit. To this effect many people like Belarus' approach to this issue...

SHUSHKEVICH: The counting point for me was the refusal from such contents of the issue: Is it possible to gain political or economic advantages from the preservation of nuclear weapons on our territory? This implication is obvious now during the solution of the problem and I felt it when the issue was being discussed by the Presidium of our Supreme Soviet. I am surprised by supernaive judgements of people who have no notion about fission materials. They assert: we can build a power station on these materials as we are experiencing shortages in the power supply. This does not fall under any category! It is as "beneficial" as, for example, the re-melting of a precious art piece into spoons and forks.

What is our position based upon? We understand that nuclear weapons do not protect us from anybody but represent a threat. We have followed an honest and direct solution to this problem, having recognized that such weapons do not belong to us. Did Belarusian scientists develop them or are they being produced at Belarusian factories? To some extent we are concerned about this, as, for example, Holland's neighbors are concerned to the successes of Holland (I do not want to insult this country). We recognized: These are Russian weapons and one should make agreements with Russia. We have precisely worded this and are going along this way. We understand the senselessness of the claims to receive our share from the funds allocated by the U.S. Congress to liquidate strategic nuclear weapons stationed on the territory of the former USSR. Our position has received comments by American legislators: Having come to this country they declared that they will render technical assistance to us according to our approach to the disarmament problem.

The next Interfax "Presidential Bulletin" will carry the end of Shushkevich's interview; it will mainly be devoted to short-term domestic political plans of the republican leadership.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Central Asian Republics

WS2501133093 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1331 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] On 21 January, in Minsk, Belarus established diplomatic relations with the Republics of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Respective protocols were signed by Khalykberdiy Atayev, Turkmenistan's foreign minister; Shakhobiddin Ziyamov [name as received], Uzbek first deputy foreign minister; and Askar Aytmatov, Kyrgyz deputy foreign minister. On behalf of Belarus, the agreements were signed by Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka and his deputy Vladimir Astapenka.

Both the host and the guests are convinced that the establishment of diplomatic relations on the state level meets mutual interests and will promote further cooperation and peace.

"Today, we legally consolidated our long-standing relations," stressed Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Khalykberdiy Atayev. "These documents will strengthen our ties, particularly economic ones, even more. We have many things that Belarus needs—gas, oil, cotton, and others."

"Recently, Belarus has been attaching great importance to the establishment of political and economic contacts with the former USSR republics," noted Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka in his short address. "We have always been interested in trade and economic cooperation, and the signed documents open up favorable possibilities for this."

Moldova

Russian Envoy Refutes Report on Arrival of Troops

LD2201153393 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0830 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] At a briefing in Chisinau on Thursday [21 January], Vladimir Klichko, the Russian ambassador to Moldova, refuted a report on the arrival of a new contingent of Russian troops in the Dniester region. Earlier that day (Georgiy Slavu), a leader of the parliamentary faction of the opposition Christian Democratic Popular Front, claimed that new armed formations of the Russian Federation are arriving in Tiraspol, and are rendering help to, I quote, separatists from the Dniester region. In this connection he proposed that the parliament ask international organizations for help in withdrawing the 14th Russian Army and other Russian Federation subunits from the republic's territory.

Dniester Accused of Unwillingness To Agree on Settlement

OW2601120793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1105 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The complete realization of the Russian-Moldovan agreement on a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Dniester is not being achieved "by the fault of the leadership of Tiraspol and the conservative forces sent from outside the republic." This was announced in a press release, by the members of the Joint Control Commission in Moldova, published on Tuesday [26 January] in the newspaper "NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA".

In the opinion of Chisinau, the leadership of Dniester is using the security zone created in the region as "an excuse to realize its own political ambitions, aimed at dividing the republic." As a result, the Moldovan representatives proposed that a group of military observers from Moldova, Russia, Romania and Ukraine join the Commission.

Friendship Treaty Signed With Abkhazia; Moldova Protests

LD2501182793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1227 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 25 January—Abkhazia and the Dniester Region have concluded a treaty "On friendship and cooperation" in Tiraspol. Dniester Region State Secretary Valeriy Litskiy told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that this document is based on shared aims and tasks common to both regions and provides for broad-based cooperation between them in the economic, commercial,

cultural and other areas. Under the terms of the document, the Dniester Region and Abkhazia have agreed, in the event of either side's being threatened with an armed attack, to hold consultations aimed at working out measures to repulse the aggression.

There has been a negative response to the agreement in Moldova. Parliament Deputy Chairman Viktor Pushkash told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the treaty is invalid since it has been concluded beteen two illegitimate formations on the territory of the sovereign states of Georgia and Moldova, thus flouting the norms of international law. "We respect international law and will never conclude such agreements with, for example, Chechnya or Tatarstan, to the detriment of Russia," he stressed. "I regret that certain politicians in Moscow fail to understand that such a practice of legal outrages in the republics of the former Union could ultimately undermine Russia itself."

Commander of 14th Army Comments on Situation

PM2201164793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jan 93 pp 1-2

[Interview with General A.I. Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, by Ivan Boltovskiy; place and date not given: "General A. Lebed: 'I Do Nothing Behind the People's Backs'"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] I happened to participate in a meeting between Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed and workers from Rybnica who had traveled to see him at the staff of the 14th Army. The conversation lasted more than three hours. Toward the end one of the guests summed up with these words: "Comrade General, we trust you 100 percent." When they got up from the table, he asked Lebed how tall he was. They compared their heights, and it turned out that they were the same height. It also turned out that they were the same age—just over 40.

"Our general," the worker said. When they had left the army commander, someone added: "He is a harsh, yet correct guy." "Fair," I would elaborate after my conversation with Aleksandr Ivanovich.

[Boltovskiy] The fire in the region has been extinguished with the Army's help. How do you assess the present situation?

[Lebed] Silence set in here approximately from 1 August, after the peacemaking force was sent in. It is a fragile, timid, uncertain peace, but it is peace. The separating force has been in place five months. I had hoped that this period would be full of energetic political work. Unfortunately, the load of accumulated problems has, in general, remained where it was at the beginning of August. Chisinau rejects the idea of a confederation, and Tiraspol, it seems to me, is not being consistent. Someone somewhere turns to somebody and appeals for something. But this work lacks the chief thing—system. This is particularly glaring to me, as a professional soldier.

[Boltovskiy] I have been in Bendery: The city folks' anxiety has not departed.

[Lebed] What tranquillity can there be, when there are two powers in the city, two prosecutor's offices, a police and a militia? A new outburst of emotions and confrontation can be expected every hour and day. It is irresponsible, to put it mildly, to hope that the problem of the confrontation will be resolved of its own accord.

[Boltovskiy] How, in your opinion, can this knot be untied?

[Lebed] I believe there is a need to hold a repeat referendum in Bendery with the participation of international observers, so that no one will ever say again: People were brought at the point of an assault rifle to vote for the DMR [Dniester Moldovan Republic]. The referendum must answer the question: Who will be boss in the city—the DMR or Moldova?

[Boltovskiy] But recognition of the will of the people, who spoke out for independence in December 1991, depends above all on the inner strength of the young political formation called the DMR.

[Lebed] This question applies not only to the Dniester region. In my opinion, the chief condition for society's strength is its moral state. For all the difficulties being experienced today by the peoples of the former Soviet republics, there are priorities, the central one of which for me personally is the well-being of old people and children.

Unfortunately, they are having the hardest time of anyone in the Dniester region today, just as everywhere. Old people count every kopek and deny themselves the most essential thing. How will malnourished children grow up? I am talking not of individual cases but of millions, of generations.

[Boltovskiy] You get the impression that Mamay [14th-century Tatar leader] has been all over the country and not just to the "trouble spots"!

[Lebed] Many people live now without any vision of the future and believing in nobody and nothing. There is no guiding star. People are ignorant and depressed. Many people have confused thoughts in their head and disorder in their soul.

Our people—I will never get my tongue around the expression "former Soviet people"—are very patient, accustomed to getting by on little, and ready to overcome all the difficulties that face them. But they must know their future and believe in it. They must know where to go and what to expect in one month, in three months, in a year. When the main direction has been charted, we will overcome the difficulties consciously,

with confidence in our own strength, and with a light heart. For everyone wants to live, not just to exist, howling to the moon at night, as is frequently the case here now.

Of course, it is not easy for the leadership of the Dniester region to work out the program of which I speak. The economy depends on Russia, Ukraine, Moldova... Nevertheless, it is necessary to create it, for without this it is impossible to preserve society's unity, and the struggle for political recognition threatens to become an empty declaration.

[Boltovskiy] There are rumors of the 14th Army's alleged secret withdrawal. Not only inhabitants of the Dniester region are anxious about this.

[Lebed] Yes, there are a lot of rumors, all kinds of ones. I believe that they are being spread by people who are either dim-witted or ill-intentioned. What is the 14th Army, which is entrusted to me? To put it crudely, it is an accumulation of various units which were subordinate to the district and directly to the army. Many simply are not needed here. People receive their pay, eat porridge, and wear jodhpurs, and all their activity is absurd from the outset.

This is why proposals were drawn up for the withdrawal and reformation of units and combined units of central and district subordination. They have been agreed with the appropriate ministers and the president of the DMR. All agreed that this is how things must be and will be. Work is being carried out in accordance with the plan that was drawn up. Not a step to the left, not a step to the right. I have done and intend to do nothing behind the backs of the people of the Dniester region.

Fundamental questions of the units' disbandment are being resolved in talks with Moldova. Their first round failed. Another delegation is expected to arrive from Moscow, and then the talks will be resumed. Note, with the obligatory participation of the Dniester side.

[Boltovskiy] Are there any ethnic problems in the 14th Army?

[Lebed] In the Soviet Army, as in the Union, people were never divided up into Russians and non-Russians. Otherwise it would not have been the army. There were stupid people and clever people, hard-working people and loafers, good people and not very good people. They were people. No one divided them up into Georgians, Moldovans, Russians, or Ukrainians. This was how it was, and this was fair. This is how it must be. Every nation has a right to its own geniuses, fools, and villains. It is not only absurd but also dangerous to argue over which nation is better and which is worse. I have been to practically all the "trouble spots" and seen everything. Smoke is rising from charred bodies around the country while nationalists, setting peoples against each other, beat their chest with their fists and argue that they are leading people toward new heights of culture. If this is culture, it is the culture of barbarians!

I will allow no one in the Army to be divided up into nationalities. They will be soldiers! They will be citizens! It is important that guys stand in the same formation.

[Boltovskiy] You have found a common language with the Moldovans of the left bank. What is your attitude to those who live on the other bank?

[Lebed] I visited Soviet Moldavia repeatedly on service duty. I will retain forever the picture of a friendly, hospitable people. A beautiful, good bird—the stork—was the republic's symbol. It seems to me that all these horns, hooves, and eagles which appeared recently are temporary emblems. They are alien to the sentiments of ordinary people.

Anticipating the next question, I will reply that, of course, it was not the working people of Moldova who unleashed the war. I do not doubt that the time will come when it will be viewed as a crime against their own people. This will happen at the next stage of perestroyka, when the time will come for an exchange of views. For the time being, unfortunately, the second stage—an exchange of fire—is still continuing.

With regard to the policy of Romanianization, over which the war flared up, I will say one thing—I cannot understand the call to regard all Moldovans as Romanians. Every person and every people—they themselves alone, and no one else—must decide their own fate.

[Boltovskiy] The Dniester region's press has carried articles which have declared you and Colonel M. Bergman, commandant of Tiraspol Garrison, to be almost agents of Chisinau.

[Lebed] The activity of the military commandant's office and, consequently, my activity too, since the office is directly subordinate to me, really has been not to the taste of some people. The commandant tried to call everyone to order, regardless of whether it was a little person or a big one. Certain "bigwigs" disliked the "lack of discrimination." What can I say here? Konstantin Simonov'e poem "Battle on the Ice" contains these lines:

"Prince Alexander was loved while his heavy hand was defeating the Swede and the Teuton. But, on entering Novgorod in triumph, he tweaked the boyars' tail and at once became no better than a Swede, unbidden and unloved by them."

There are figures who would like to turn the Dniester region into their own, private, pocket Klondike. Whereas ordinary people tremble in their sleep from the horrors of war that they have experienced, slick operators shake with gold fever.

I can say one thing to the accusation that I and Col. Bergman are "undermining" the republic in some way: If the young republic rids itself of the thieves who disgrace its name, it will not become weaker! On the contrary, only stronger, and peace more lasting! It would be desirable for this to happen as soon as possible.

[Boltovskiy] I see on your desk a book on the history of Finland. At a congress of Moldovans of the DMR you advised using the practice of Finland's relations with Russia to determine the fate of the Dniester region.

[Lebed] Finland was part of czarist Russia from 1809 through 1917. It had all the attributes of a sovereign state: a parliament, troops, police. There was a common currency, a unified ruble zone, as people say now. The border was transparent. Parliament was not fictitious but fully empowered by law. There is something to learn from history. At present, however, somehow no one is showing a desire to utilize this science.

Kazakhstan

Republic Council Discusses Economic Problems

LD2001150293 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] The Council of the Republic was set up at the end of last year by decree of the president. The council includes the vice president, the prime minister, heads of administrations, and chairmen of oblasts and the Alma-Ata and Leninsk Soviets of People's Deputies.

Nursultan Nazarbayev chaired the first session of this council on 16 January. Members of the government, heads of republican departments, state concerns, and corporations, and senior staff from central bodies were invited.

The council discussed the results of the socioeconomic development of the Republic in 1992 and the tasks for 1993. Minister of Economics Beysenbay Izteleuov delivered a report.

Last year was not easy for Kazakhstan. The slump in production that began with the collapse of the former Union embraced all branches of the national economy. The situation is particularly difficult in industry. The production of goods fell by 14.8 percent in comparison with 1991. Over half of all enterprises sharply reduced the amount of goods produced. The fact that the fall in production has not yet been halted is particularly worrying.

The Republic is producing less oil, gas recovery is not increasing, and power generation has fallen by 3.9 percent. Things are no better in metallurgy: Iron smelting has fallen by 5.8 percent, steel output by 4.9 percent, and iron ore extraction by almost 20 percent.

Output has fallen in the engineering and chemical industries, forestry, timber processing, the pulp and paper industry, and the building sector. The situation is also serious in consumer goods production. For example, the work of enterprises producing fur goods and shoes has been effectively paralyzed due to the shortage of unfinished leathers. The performance of rail, road, and air transportation was a great deal worse over the past year.

Measures being implemented by the government to get the economy out of the crisis have not produced the desired results. Output continues to fall and inflation is on the rise. Consequently, the GNP has fallen by 15 percent in comparison to 1991 and national income by 14.2 percent.

Nonetheless, not everything here is as bad as that. Farmers brought in a record grain harvest of 33 million tonnes. There will be a abundance of bread, and that is pleasing. We have also put into store more buckwheat, oil-bearing crops, and potatoes than planned. All in all, a substantial profit has been made from arable farming—66 billion rubles. Meat and milk production, however, are still making losses.

How is the Republic to be brought out of crisis? What measures will be used to soften the blow of the market on the economy and the public? Both the rapporteur and those who spoke in the debate expressed quite a lot of ideas and suggestions directed at stabilizing and improving conditions in industry and the agro-industrial complex and refining the banking system and pricing policy.

In the view of those taking part in the session, it is essential to quickly restore the economic links with the CIS countries that have been broken. The CIS remains the main market in which the Republic is able to sell and buy the goods it needs. In the long term, it is economically profitable to set up joint concerns processing crude oil, timber, and wool in cooperation with Russia.

It was also said that, even with the record grain harvest, the financial position of many collective and state farms is still disastrous. There is no money to pay wages and no way to pay for fuel and spare parts. But it is not long until sowing, and agriculture is not going to survive without subsidies; that was the conclusion of the majority of speakers in the debate.

Some paradoxical facts were adduced from the rostrum: The republic exports more chromium and yellow phosphorus than anyone in the world, yet our enterprises are desperate due to a shortage of this raw material. Without a vertical structure of planning and management, this problem is clearly not going to go away. The banking system is effectively distanced from the real economy; it is virtually impossible to obtain credit today. The bankers have one answer: There are no funds. The capital and the ministry must implement staffing policies more actively on the spot.

As those taking part in the session noted, the most acute of the multitude of problems has to do with saturating the market with our own goods. If this is not done, inflation will not stop. Despite all the difficulties, we have to hold prices for food products at today's level to prevent any further fall in the population's standard of living. After all, the majority of the people have already reached the critical poverty line. This is why the government must first and foremost finance vitally important social programs.

The president summed up the results of the discussion. The government does not intend to step back from the market, he said. Now that we have entered the water, we *have to follow that path, however difficult it might be.* Therefore, after confirming the program for the privatization of enterprises, we will be starting to strictly hold accountable those responsible for implementing it. We need to judge the skill of managers at mastering the market and at organizing industry in the future according to their ultimate results.

Analysis has shown, the head of state stressed, that the sharp slump in output also happened because the government and ministry lost the ability to manage the economy effectively all along the technical chain. Today all state enterprises have effectively found themselves in the hands of their directors, and they are running state assets as individuals. This is abnormal and this kind of distortion has to be eradicated.

Two main tasks have to be resolved in the immediate future: halting inflation and the decline in output of our own produce and then, quite distinctly, starting the production of those goods in greatest demand. To achieve these goals we have to mobilize all resources, experience, and best efforts.

Nursultan Nazarbayev focused his attention on how to make best economic use of the rich harvest that has been brought in. It is important not only to supply the grain promised to other Republics in the Commonwealth and to pay on time for gasoline, tractors, and metal received, but also to sell the surplus for currency. This is the way for farms to attain full independence. One must only keep in mind that grain is a strategic raw material and must be used wisely.

The president noted that the spurious practice of asking the government for subsidies to cover the debts of loss-making enterprises had been popular in the Republic for many years. In particular, this is being shamelessly abused by heads of oblast administrations, managers in the agro-industrial complex, and many people's deputies. This practice must be stopped. In his opinion, any subsidy makes the end product more expensive and corrupts the work collective, encouraging them to feel dependent. Therefore, while subsidies exist there is nobody responsible for the matter at hand. There is only one way out this situation: bringing in advanced technologies and getting production of quality output started.

Our trade turnover has recently fallen by 15 percent, yet in Uzbekistan it has fallen only 12 percent. Why? The reason is well known. Our cheap goods are being bought up by commercial structures and sold in neighboring countries. Moreover, certain state enterprises are exporting raw leather, chromium ore, and ferroalloys to China and the West literally for a song, and paying no duty on it. The taxation of those who build up their own capital by selling off the wealth of the state must be tightened. All commercial operations in the future will have to be carried out only with the knowledge of the minister of foreign economic ties.

The country used to invest huge amounts of capital in the reconstruction of enterprises producing nonferrous metals. Now products are exported abroad for huge sums only through Balkhash Copper. [passage indistinct]

In conclusion, the president touched on the problems of investment in the basic sectors of the national economy, privatization, the establishment of a securities market, and the social welfare of the public. To get our economy on a better footing, he said, we have to go back to long-term planning. In fact, there is no civilized country in the world that operates without a plan.

The session [words indistinct] analyzed progress in implementing decisions adopted earlier. It was proposed that a government committee be set up to work solely on problems of relations among nationalities and a balanced language policy. [passage indistinct] of the Supreme Soviet took part in the work of the session of the Council.

Further on Republic Council

LD1801130593 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0200 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] This year's first session of the Council of the Republic took place yesterday in Alma-Ata. Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, delivered an opening speech. The Council examined the results of the country's socio-economic development during 1992 and the tasks ahead in 1993. A report on this issue was delivered by Economics Minister Izteleuov. He summarized problems of and prospects for the development of reforms and the privatization of the country's economy during this year.

Taking part in the debate on the issues under discussion were heads of several ministries and departments and heads of oblast administrations. They talked about problems which have arisen in agriculture, construction, light industry, transport, and other branches of the national economy.

A report on the work of the republic's national bank was delivered to those at the session by the bank's chairman, Baynazarov.

A report on the development of languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister Dzholdasbekov.

Taking part in the work of the Council were Supreme Soviet Chairman Abdildin, Prime Minister Tereshchenko, and Asanbayev, vice president of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

State To Play Larger Role in Regulating Economy

LD2601101393 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Kazakhstan is changing its economic reform strategy. In the course of further realization of reforms, the role of the state in regulating the economy will be intensified. This was announced by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in a speech to parliament. He said Kazakhstan would take up the practice accepted in all countries of the world where the role of the state was extremely high. The president subjected to sharp criticism the former economic policy of both his and other CIS republics. According to him, the hasty destruction of

the old system when a new one has not yet been built leads to chaos and recession and discredits the progressive idea of a free market.

Industrial Output Down Almost 15 Percent From 1991

LD2401230293 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0500 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Of all the things that are needed and used in people's everyday lives, the only ones the people of Kazakhstan had enough of last year were grain and natural gas, both of which were produced in slightly larger quantities than in the preceding year. This has emerged from the official report of the State Committee on Statistics and Analysis.

In short, the picture is grim. The actual volume of industrial output was almost 15 percent lower than the level in 1991. Enterprises failed to come up with 213 billion rubles [R] worth of output: Almost 33 percent less meat, milk, and dairy produce; 25 percent less fish produce; and 50 percent less sugar were produced. The rate of extraction of oil, gas, and coal fell with each passing month in the fuel and energy complex. Throughout the entire year the situation in the metallurgy industry was complex. There was a significant drop in extraction of iron ore, production of cast iron, steel, and non-ferrous metals.

Preliminary results of work by industrial enterprises in the early days of January indicate that the fall in the rate of production of output continues unabated.

Parliament Begins Discussion of Draft Constitution

OW2501182693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [25 January], the Kazakh parliament initiated an item-by-item discussion of the draft of the republic's new constitution.

In a brief introduction before the discussion, President Nursultan Nazarbayev called on deputies "to give a careful study to each article" of the draft. The deputies do "not have the right" to approve any passages of the Constitution upon their oral presentation. Nazarbayev emphasized that he wants the Constitution to be adopted "as soon as possible."

Nazarbayev denied the allegations about the conflict between the executive and legislative powers in Kazakhstan, noting "someone seems to be willing to set him against the chairman of the Supreme Council, as it happened in Russia."

In the meantime, 14 opposition political parties have circulated their appeal in the Kazakh parliament with a demand to postpone the adoption of the new constitution "until the new parliament has been elected." The document contends that the existing Supreme Council does "not reflect Kazakhstan's complete political spectrum," while some of the articles of the draft are "declaratory" and provide no "reliable guarantees against the a possibility of usurpation of power, so long as it does not envisage impeachment and mechanisms to dissolve parliament."

The parliamentarians have not made any decision in regard to this appeal. They are expected to continue to address it at their evening session on Monday.

Constitutional Court Revokes Law on Treaties

LD2501201293 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] The Constitutional Court has studied the case of the constitutionality of the law on the system of concluding, executing, and renouncing international treaties of the Republic of Kazakhstan. During the court inquiry, explanations were heard from representatives of the president and the Supreme Kenges. Speeches by specialists and conclusions of experts were heard. Other material on the essence of the matter was also studied.

As a result, it was established that the legislative act in question, which was sent to the president for signing after adoption by parliament, was returned with objections of the Supreme Kenges because it did not conform with the constitution. According to the procedure established, the document was liable for tabling at the session of the Supreme Kenges for a second discussion and vote. However, this did not happen. Moreover, substantial amendments and additions appeared in the law, reflecting the president's observations, after which it was signed by him.

The Constitutional Court noted that in this instance the requirements of articles 97, 102 and 113 of the existing constitution were violated, as was article 10 of the constitutional law on the state independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Therefore the law on the system for concluding, adding to [as heard] and renouncing international treaties of the Republic of Kazakhstan is deemed not to conform with the constitution of the republic, and its operation has been revoked.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Explains Position on Middle East Settlement

OW2501212193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1831 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report on interview with President Askar Akayev by unidentified INTERFAX correspondent on 23 January; place not given; report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by

Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Akayev believes that the firm decision by Kyrgyzstan to open an embassy in Jerusalem will not destroy the political balance in the Middle East. He said this in an exclusive interview with Interfax, on his return to Bishkek from Minsk on Saturday [23 January] (Akayev came from a foreign trip to participate in the CIS summit). The head of state thinks that his announcement on opening a Kyrgyz diplomatic mission in Jerusalem balances the demand for complete independence of the Arab nation of Palestine. Akayev drew attention to the fact that such a demand was first sounded in Jerusalem from the mouths of "Muslim countries". In the opinion of the Kyrgyz leader, Arab nations missed his statement in relation to the independence of the Palestinian people and concentrated on the "sensation". "In such situations it is necessary to look at both sides of the coin with equal objectivity," the president said.

Akayev stressed that he welcomed the "energetic action" of the current government of Israel aimed at ending the "long and tortuous conflict between Arabs and Israelis." According to the president, the statement made by the Israeli government on the future of Palestinians, was "of course received with restraint and coolness." The Kyrgyz president, on the whole, skeptically assesses the possibility of ever settling the Middle East conflicts, however, he believes that "as a sovereign state, Kyrgyzstan must have its own position on international problems, and here is such a position." "We must not follow stereotypes, but build our relations with states proceeding from political reality," the Kyrgyz leader added.

Answering a question on the practical feasibility of the idea of opening an embassy in Jerusalem, Akayev noted: "Kyrgyzstan is a poor country with embassies in only three countries of the world and so far, cannot afford more." Nevertheless he once more confirmed that if the "whenever" materializes, then it will be "in the single city of Jerusalem." The president envisages that "Jerusalem cannot be divided, as it is the holy city for Muslims, Jews and Christians." "All these peoples must live in harmony and peace. It is very important that no one ever raises the question of the division of a single Jerusalem," Akayev concluded.

Agreement Signed With U.S. on Investments

LD2301172493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] The United States and Kyrgyzstan have signed a bilateral agreement on investments. The accord will pave the way for more vigorous commercial ties between the two countries. There will be favorable conditions for mutual investments, free access to international arbitration, and free flow of capital. It is the third agreement on investments signed by the United States with former Soviet republics. Earlier, similar documents were signed with Russia and Armenia.

Presidential Adviser Vows Reform To Continue

OW2101222393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Askar Akayev's demand for a package of emergency measures for the economy to be drawn up within a one week period should not be viewed as a "blow to market economics" and reform would continue. This statement was made by Talai Koichumanov, the head of the president's social political analysis and forecasting department, in an interview with INTERFAX [IF].

IF Note: President Akayev, at a recent emergency session of the government, proposed an emergency session of parliament to approve documents prepared by the cabinet of ministers on solving the crisis and granting the goverment the necessary additional powers. The head of state stressed that if the government did not urgently put the emergency measures into effect there would be a threat of disintegration. He described the cabinet's efforts in 1992 as "very poor."

Such rigid measures, Koichumanov said, were primarily intended to step up the utilization of domestic resources to stabilise the economy. They were also being introduced to prevent state administration bodies to relax in the face of impending economic catastrophe connected with the increase in the cost of energy supplies to world levels. The expert predicted that 360 bn. [billion] dollars would have to be spent on oil and gas alone during 1993 to satisfy the minimum requirement of the population and the national economy. The president's proposals would have to create the conditions for Kyrgyzstan's economic independence on the whole. Without this, he said, there could be no political independence.

Rafkat Khasanov, the president's economics expert, told INTERFAX that difficulties were being experienced with the management of the main sectors of the economy. There were instances, in his opinion, where this had arisen due to the fact that the republic's state assets fund was being controlled not by the government but by parliament. This meant that parliament held in its hands the right to the controlling interest in state shares and joint stock and holding companies. Khasanov considered, however, that there was no need for emergency powers to be granted to the government. He said that the question whether ministries and departments could own state shares in joint stock and holding companies should be decided urgently. This, he considered, could become the means of genuine control over the economy and exert influence on enterprises so that they could direct their assets and investment into the development of manufacturing. In addition, the government did not have its hands on the levers which could control the development of manufacturing during the transition to the market

structuring. This, in turn, would lead to the situation where, with the existence of inflation and monopolist tendencies, enterprises would possess large profits which would go on consumption and not on development.

Khasanov considered that the measures to stabilise the economy should include tax concessions for businesses operating in priority sectors in order to stimulate manufacturing. This concerned primarily the processing of agricultural products and energy resources.

Cabinet Takes Measures To Halt Production Decline

LD1501223293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2110 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By KYRGYZKABAR correspondent Aleksandr Barshay for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek January 15 TASS—The Kyrgyz Government held an emergency session on Friday to discuss urgent measures to stop production decline in the republic.

President Askar Akayev expressed deep concern about the republic's future and blasted the government, ministries, banks and all state organisations for lax work in the past year.

Kyrgyzstan had the worst ever economic results in 1992 among all CIS states, except Armenia.

Akayev called for drawing up a package of urgent measures within a week to prevent the republic from sliding into an economic chaos and to stabilise the situation. He did not rule out the possibility of convening an emergency session of the republican parliament to discuss the programme.

Tajikistan

Government Continues To Disarm Armed Opposition

LD2601130993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1102 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe January 26 TASS—Tajik Government troops continue an operation to disband and disarm armed opposition groups in the Romit Gorge located several dozen kilometers east of Dushanbe.

According to information received by ITAR-TASS from military sources on Tuesday [26 January], there are casualties, including government troops, as a result of several clashes.

The number of gunmen is small, but they know the terrain well, have well-accomodated hideouts and advanced weapons, including anti-tank arms and sniper's rifles, which is a great advantage in mountain conditions.

Nevertheless, government troops advanced some 40 kilometers into the Romit Gorge over the past two days and virtually sealed off opposition groups there. According to military sources, the operation to clean the gorge from armed groups will take several days.

Republican Interior Minster Yakub Salimov said at the same time that authorities are ready to continue talks with field commanders of the Romit group to end their senseless resistance and to disband that group.

According to the minister, the government guarantees personal security to field commanders and rank-and-file gunmen and will prevent spontaneous violence against members of armed opposition: the court of law will determine their responsibility.

Describing the situation in other Tajik regions, Chairman of the National Security Committee Saidamir Zukhurov said that it is relatively stable, stressing that the situation is under control of law enforcement bodies.

Authorities step up actions to seize weapons illegally obtained by people during civil strife. Nevertheless, the security chief noted, Tajik people still have several dozen thousands of firearms in their possession.

CIS Troops Expected

LD2501225993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Government troops of Tajikistan today carried out an attack on the last centers of armed opposition resistance. The operation took place in the Romit Gorge around 70 km from Dushanbe. Armored subunits of government troops were directed against the opposition. The guerillas provided armed resistance, in spite of the demand that they surrender their weapons.

The leadership of Tajikistan hopes to put an end to the activities of the armed opposition before the CIS peacekeeping forces move in. Let me recall that in accordance with what was agreed at the Minsk CIS summit, the first four battalions of the Commonwealth peacekeeping forces ought to arrive in Tajikistan any day now.

Government Seeks UN Emergency Aid

LD1901131993 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tajikistan has requested that the United Nations send emergency aid to restore its economy and the [word indistinct] institutions which have been damaged as a result of the armed conflict. The amount of damage is mentioned in a document which was circulated by the Government of Tajikistan on Monday [18 January].

According to the document, sent to the UN secretary general by Lakim Kayumov, the permanent representative of Tajikistan at the UN, armed struggle by various political groups, which lasted more than 10 months during 1992, resulted in the destabilization of the state of economy of the republic. The economy of Tajikistan was paralyzed during the long period of railroad and road closures, lack of fuel and oil as well as the non-Tajik population leaving the republic's territory. The total amount of damage exceeds 200 billion rubles.

UN Ready To Provide Aid

LD2201125293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Dushanbe January 22 TASS—The United Nations is ready to provide urgent humanitarian aid to Tajikistan and help it overcome the consequences of the civil war, said Ekbar Menemendzhioglu, representative of the U.N. Supreme Commissary for Refugees, who arrived in the republic on Friday [22 January].

The announcement was made during Menemendzhioglu's meeting with Tajik First Deputy Foreign Minister Erkin Rakhmatullayev in Dushanbe on Friday.

He said the United Nations has called on the world community to raise funds to help Tajikistan. Over 20 million U.S. dollars which are expected to be raised through the campaign will be used to restore the economy of the Khatlon region of Tajikistan, Menemendzhioglu said.

Additionally, the U.N. International Organisation for Migration has allocated one million U.S. dollars to finance the construction of houses for 40,000 refugees in the region.

Supreme Soviet Receives UN Mission

LD2601100993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0640 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 26 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Tajik Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmonov received the UN mission headed by Leviu Bota, personal envoy of UN Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali. The mission arrived in Dushanbe at the personal invitation of the head of the Tajik parliament with a view to obtaining objective and honest information on the sociopolitical processes taking place in this republic and on the observation of human rights there. During the conversation, the Tajik leader acquainted the UN representatives with the measures taken to put an end to the fratricidal war, to guaranteeing national accord, and restoring the republic's economy which has suffered damages amounting to many thousands of millions of rubles due the the armed conflict which has been going on for many months.

In his turn, Leviu Bota expressed understanding of the difficulties being experienced by Tajikistan, and said that the world community is extremely interested in the earliest settlement of the internal political conflict in the republic. In this connection he assessed positively the decision of the CIS heads of states at the Minsk meeting on sending peacekeeping forces to Tajikistan. According to the UN representative, the international community intends to substantially expand humanitarian aid to the Tajik people and first of all in the southern regions of the republic.

During the conversation, an understanding was reached on opening up a permanent UN mission in Dushanbe.

At the end of the conversation, Imamali Rakhmonov asked the guest to convey to UN Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali an official invitation to visit Tajikistan.

Moscow Promises 200-Billion Ruble Technical Credit

OW2401135793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of Tajikistan's parliament, Imamali Rakhmonov, believes that a major result of his recent talks with President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow is the agreement to hold an official meeting with the Russian leadership and sign a treaty and an intergovernmental agreement between the two countries.

He welcomed the businesslike atmosphere of the unofficial talks at which President Yeltsin promised Tajikistan extensive aid in food, medicines, fuel and lubricating materials, Rakhmonov told IF [INTERFAX] on Sunday [24 January]. Besides, Moscow promised to grant Dushanbe interest-free technical credit in an amount of 200 billion rubles.

According to Rakhmonov, on personal instructions from President Yeltsin Russia's Health Ministry is to despatch to Tajikistan this week a group of doctors and medicines whose worth exceeds 1 million rubles.

The speaker of Tajikistan's parliament also said that in the first half of this year his republic is to receive 400,000 tons of grain from Kazakhstan. This means that "Tajikistan will not starve", he said. Out of that quantity, 200,000 tons were to be sent to Russia, but the Russian president "gave up that grain in favor of Tajikistan which needs it more", said Rakhmonov.

"We feel that our misfortune met with heartfelt compassion and sincere desire to help," Rakhmonov pointed out.

Rakhmonov Says Outflow of Russians Declining

LD2501192993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] A meeting between the heads of government of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was held last week. A protocol was signed on establishing diplomatic relations between the two sovereign states. The heads of the republican ministries and organizations agreed on establishing closer contacts in the economy and trade.

A news conference was held following the meeting between the heads of government. An awkward question was asked: What is the new government doing to stop Russian-speaking refugees leaving Tajikistan? Imamali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, said that as the situation stabilizes, the flow of Russian-speaking people from Tajikistan is declining. Now we think about how we should live in future. We know one thing: In the past, highly qualified specialists in the fields of electrical and hydropower engineering, industry, and construction from all over the former Soviet Union came to our republic. Our economic and technical potential has mainly been increased by their hands and brains. I think we should remain together. We all should be together. Imamali Rakhmonov invited journalists to Dushanbe in order to see for themselves that the Russian-speaking people are unpacking their suitcases.

Commission Said Denied Opportunity To Work With Refugees

OW2401170893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] First Vice-Chairman of the Tajik parliament Abdumajid Dostiyev, who heads the official commission for refugees, said that his commission has failed to ensure the return of the Tajik refugees, because it had no opportunity to work in Afghanistan.

He told Interfax on Sunday [24 January] that the Afghan authorities have not replied to any of the three letters sent to them. "This deprives the delegation of the official status and of security guarantees," he said.

"It is not yet clear to us whether the Afghan authorities' silence is due to their reluctance to assist in the solution of the problems facing the Tajik refugees, or to the conflict between Afghanistan's military groupings and general mess in the government," he added.

As we reported earlier, the about 15,000 Tajik refugees, who waited for an opportunity to cross the river Panj and return home, had been moved deep into Afghanistan by the local authorities. At the moment, there are several dozen thousand Tajik refugees in Afghanistan, who had fled from Tajikistan fearing the fighting between the conflicting political groupings.

Decree Issued on Khatlon Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies

LD2101181993 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] In light of the the fact that as a result of armed conflicts a considerable number of deputies have left several rayons of Khatlon oblast for various reasons, and that it is not possible to obtain the necessary quorum for convening sessions, and taking account of the proposal of the chair of the Executive Committee of the Khatlon Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies, the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Republic of Tajikistan decrees:

Local soviets, where it is not possible to obtain the necessary quorum, as an exceptional measure, are to be allowed to hold sessions with the presence of the majority of deputies of the soviets. In cases where less than half the deputies are present, the Executive Committee of the Khatlon Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies is given the right to create, by agreement with the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Republic of Tajikistan, organization committees with the rights of the Executive Committee to manage socioeconomic development and the subsequent formation of the corresponding local soviet of people's deputies.

[Signed] Imamali Rakhmonov, chair of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan

Uzbekistan

Human Rights Press Conference Held

PM2501145593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Marina Lebedeva: "How Many Dissidents Have to be Transplanted Before the Long-Awaited Prosperity Comes to Uzbekistan?"]

[Text] A press conference "On the question of observance of human rights in Uzbekistan" has been held in the Writers' Central House. It was organized by the "Memorial" human rights center and the U.S. association of Jewish councils for human rights. It was occasioned by the Uzbekistan authorities' campaign of persecution against human rights activists, which was particularly fierce before, during, and after the international conference on human rights in Bishkek.

Opening the press conference, Arkadiy Dubnov, political director of the Moscow office of the U.S. association of Jewish councils for human rights, stressed that close interest in the violation of human rights in the republic is not an invasion of a sovereign state's internal affairs, because protection of human rights is an area that knows no frontiers. This was acknowledged by Uzbekistan when it signed the Helsinki agreements.

Speaking at the press conference, Uktam Bekmukhamedov, chairman of the Samarkand Tajiks' national cultural center (you will recall that he was kidnapped on 8 December, immediately after the Bishkek human rights conference, in the center of the city together with one of its organizers, Abdumannob Pulatov, well-known Uzbekistan human rights activist and chairman of the Human Rights Society, and Takhir Bakayev, chairman of the Bukhara branch of "Birlik") denied reports that he and Bakayev had "voluntarily gotten into the car" belonging to the Uzbek kidnap group.

...U. Bekmukhamedov was taken by force to the Tashkent main internal affairs administration, where he was interrogated. Deputy chief Lieutenant Colonel Dekhkanov demanded an explanation from him: What happened at the conference in Bishkek?

Despite his protests, Bekmukhamedov was driven to Samarkand, where the Samarkand internal affairs administratiomn continued to terrorize him. After he still refused to sign a statement he was taken to the city court building, where within three minutes he was charged with abusing Sabir Yakhyayev, chief of the main internal affairs administration sixth department. They had also found a witness who said that he had seen U. Bekmukhamedov insult the militia chief, although he was attending a meeting of his center at the time. The outcome was 10 days. But that was not the end of it. When he went to the court after he had served his sentence and demanded the arrest order, Judge Kabilov was amazed: "Do you still not understand the position you are in? If 10 days is not enough for you, you will get 15." As a result Bekmukhamedov was forced to leave Samarkand...

The conference was told how "Birlik" activists M. Usmanov and M. Kasymov were arrested in the Khamzinskiy Rayon legal advice bureau in Tashkent on 6 January and taken by force to the Uzbekistan Internal Affairs Ministry, where they were held for around seven hours just because they had gone to draw up an agreement with a lawyer to help Kh. Khudayberdiyev, chairman of the Tashkent branch of "Birlik," who was under arrest. After being threatened, they were "advised" not to interfere in the case.

Yuriy Shmidt, chairman of the Russian lawyers' committee from St. Petersburg, said that in breach of the law he had not been allowed onto the case of his client, A. Pulatov. But, perhaps, the sensation was the report on the letter of complaint from A. Pulatov's other lawyer—local lawyer Kh. Zaynutdinov, who, unlike Shmidt, was allowed onto the case and saw Pulatov. The letter was addressed to the city and republic prosecutors, the Uzbekistan president, and A. Pulatov's relatives and contains an acknowledgment that crude pressure was brought to bear on him.

In particular, Zaynutdinov writes: "I was 'delicately informed' that if I were to make a special effort in defending him, there would be no guarantee of my not facing possible provocation. For example, they might find drugs on me and start bugging my telephone." Further on the lawyer writes that the investigator had misled relatives and the defense concerning Pulatov's whereabouts. He was being kept in a cell under another (!) name.

It was noted at the press conference that Uzbekistan citizens are being starved of information. There was criticism of "Ostankino" independent television news, which is saying nothing about events in Uzbekistan.

Moreover, contrary to the Constitition (article 67—"Censorship Banned"), all papers in Uzbekistan are censored before they go out. The paper ERK (organ of the "Erk" democratic party) once apeared with gaps where material had been removed by the censor or with ellipses. Then this advertisement of censorship was prohibited. Entire items were omitted from ERK. But the censorship reached its peak with the banning of the publication of the "Declaration of Human Rights" in issue 42. The other day the paper ERK was closed altogether...

On the day of the press conference Dzhakhangir Mamatov, recently elected member of the "Erk" party Central Council, Uzbekistan Supreme Soviet deputy, and a member of the Uzbekistan Supreme Soviet Glasnost Committee, rang the IZVESTIYA editorial office. He reported that the Uzbekistan Supreme Soviet Presidium had decided to strip him of his deputy's powers for refusing to make a public statement disavowing the "Erk" party.

Defense Minister Announces Military Doctrine

PM2501172393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 1

[Adilbek Kaipbergenov report under the "Brief and Clear" rubric: "Uzbekistan's Military Doctrine"]

[Text] This has been made public by Lieutenant General Rustam Akhmedov, the republic's minister of defense. The doctrine is based on six principles: nonrecognition of war as a means of resolving international problems, the inadmissibility of war as a means of achieving political ends, the forestalling and prevention of conflicts, neutrality and nuclear-free status, renunciation of territorial claims, and never being the first to start combat operations against any state.

Armenia

Minister Cited on Fuel Crisis After Pipeline Explosion

LD2501125293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 25 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—It will take at least 10 days to repair the gas pipeline in Georgia's Marneulskiy rayon—the only gas pipeline supplying Armenia, according to Armenian Power Engineering and Fuel Minister Sepukh Tashchyan. He noted that the Armenian Government is taking steps to speed up the repair of the damaged gas pipeline and is also engaged in talks with neighboring countries with the aim of increasing the supply of fuel oil and other types of fuels to the republic to a strict deadline.

At present Armenia produces a total of 12 million kWh of electricity, the minister said. This is the output of the Sevan-Razdan cascade which was built after the war but which was never fully used in order to save the water of the Sevan lake which is getting shallower. According to the minister, the Armenian president and the republican prime mInister stressed during Sunday's hook-up with Armenian rayon leaders the need for rational distribution and careful use of electricity. It should be supplied in the first instance to hospitals, bread bakers, and communication enterprises.

It was announced in Yerevan today that a telephone conversation took place on Sunday between Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Georgian Supreme Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze. They discussed how to restore gas supplies to Armenia as soon as possible and how to increase supplies of fuel oil and other types of fuel, the Armenian president's press service reports.

Government Holds Emergency Session

NC2501221293 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 2000 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan has been hit by a blizzard today and is covered by clouds and fog. It is snowing periodically and the temperature is minus 21 degrees centigrade.

Esteemed listeners, we have a reason for starting our newscast with a weather report. Along with the weather, we also should note that Yerevan and the entire Republic have been plunged into darkness.

For two days now Armenia has not received even one cubic meter of gas. Now we do not even have the 4 million-4.5 million cubic meters of gas—4.8 million cubic meters on exceptional days—which used to arrive in Armenia through a torturous Odyssean adventure. The reason for this is the blowing up of the gas pipeline that enters Armenia through Georgia's Marneulskiy Rayon, inhabited predominately by Azerbaijanis.

Gas was the only energy source we had left in the absence of other types of fuel oil due to the total blockade of transportation routes.

At present the Republic's power supply is generated by hydroelectric plants which cannot even meet household demands.

An exceedingly grave situation has arisen which can only be described as a disaster.

The Republic's president, prime minister, government, and the Emergency Situations Committee held joint consultative meetings yesterday. According to President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, although a state of emergency has not been declared in the Republic, nevertheless, all state and government enterprises and departments are operating under emergency conditions.

Everything possible is being done to maintain vital functions—primarily supplying bread and water, operating hospitals, and maintaining public order, civil aviation, communications, and the country's defenses.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan contacted the Republic's regions by means of [word indistinct] to get immediate information on the situation.

The situation is under control in all areas. In certain places, however, such as Gyumri, Spitak, Kotayk, and Idzhevan, there are difficulties in supplying bread. The prime minister was instructed to immediately resolve the problem.

Yesterday Levon Ter-Petrosyan had telephone conversations with the Russian and Georgian leaders. They examined the issue of supplying electricity to Armenia from Russia and organizing a special team to repair the blown-up pipeline.

According to the president, 10-15 days are required to completely repair the pipeline. A temporary pipeline could be laid down in the coming few days until the main pipeline is repaired.

Armenian Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan said a special team of the Armenian gas pipeline construction workers are ready to take part in the repair work. Georgian and Russian workers also will arrive. The prime minister also said that special instructions have been issued to the Armenian Interior Ministry to maintain public order and security and to forestall possible developments. According to the prime minister, State Directorate for National Security forces and the Army might be used. The prime minister emphasized that the unprecedented situation also will prove a serious trial for the authorities. The authorities must prove to the people that they are capable of working under extremely difficult conditions.

President Ter-Petrosyan also held a telephone conversation yesterday with Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman

Demirel. They discussed supplying grain and power to Armenia. They also examined ways to peacefully settle the Karabakh problem.

Karabakh Considers Pipeline Explosion Prelude to Attack

NC2501203393 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1830 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's [NKR] self-defense forces believe that the blowing up of the gas pipeline entering Armenia from Georgia was a highly organized sabotage act aimed at depriving Armenia and Karabakh of their sole fuel artery.

The people of Karabakh are convinced that the Azerbaijani side definitely will exploit the difficult situation in Armenia and the NKR following the pipeline explosion. They expect the Azerbaijani Army to intensify its aggressive operations in the coming days.

In the meantime, following a relatively calm weekend, Karaglukh, Parukh, and other border villages in Askeranskiy Rayon have been shelled with artillery from bases in Agdamskiy Rayon since early this morning.

Azerbaijani units later attempted to advance on Karaglukh but met a decisive counterattack from NKR self-defense detachments.

Aradzhadzor and Kichan in Mardakertskiy Rayon were shelled with Grad rockets. There are no reports on casualties.

The Armenian Defense Ministry press service informed an ARMENPRES correspondent that the situation on Armenia's borders remained calm on 25 January.

UN, CSCE, CIS Asked To Help Soften Blockade

LD2501210693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 25 Jan—Armenia has appealed to the leadership of the United Nations, the CSCE, and the CIS "to use all means of political influence to soften the economic blockade of Armenia and to organize effective aid to this republic which has found itself in a disastrous state." The Armenian Foreign Ministry issued a statement tonight calling the explosion on the gas pipeline in Georgia a "barbaric act of terrorism planned and executed by the Azerbaijan side, using strong-arm tactics as a means of exerting pressure on Armenia." At the same time, the Armenian foreign department refers to "competent bodies of the republic."

The statement says that the explosion resulted in "a critical situation in which hospitals and bakeries are getting the minimum of electric power and the population is on the verge of starvation and epidemics."

Yerevan believes that all this is taking place regardless of the UN Charter and documents of the UN General Assembly on the peaceful solution of conflicts and the inadmissability of the use of pressure while solving disputes.

Azerbaijan

Baku Denies Reports on Possible Chemical Weapons Use

OW2501181293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has dismissed reports by Armenian sources saying Azerbaijan is likely to use chemical weapons against Nagorno-Karabakh and likely to bomb the main power supply facilities in Armenia.

The reports quoted Major Anatoliy Chistyakov, the captured pilot of the Azeri plane shot down in Nagorno-Karabakh on January 15th. He said that such plans were being discussed in Baku.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said that Azerbaijan did not have chemical weapons, since they had been evacuated from the republic before republic's own armed forces were formed.

A spokesman for the Defense Ministry said that a bombardment of Armenian power supply facilities was ruled out, since the Azerbaijani army waged war in order to clear the sovereign Azerbaijani territory of "Armenian expedition corps" units.

Republic Will Restore Relations With Russia

PM2501161793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 6

[Unattributed, untitled report under the "News Service Working" rubric]

[Text] "Russia was and must remain our chief partner, and we will restore step by step the relations which were abandoned so hastily and unwisely, because the path of self-isolation is a path to nowhere."

Azerbaijan's Prime Minister Ragim Guseynov declared this in an interview with the newspaper BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY. The republic has always had traditionally broad and close economic ties with Russia, he said, and we are endeavoring to maintain their level today.

Presidential Adviser Gives News Conference 25 Jan

West's 'Backing' of Armenia Criticized

NC2501203893 Baku TURAN in English 1356 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 25 Jan (TURAN)—Today at the press-conference held in Baku, the Presidential Adviser Vafa Guluzade expressed his deep concern in connection with the observed policy of the Western countries, aimed at backing up Armenia. "The recent attempts to urge [word indistinct] over the blockade of Armenia are regarded in Baku as an absence of the constructive stand. It is not Azerbaijan to blockade Armenia, but the war unleashed by Armenia did it," declared he.

Guluzade outlined that "the consultations with Mario Rafaelli [chairman of the CSCE conference on Nagorno-Karabakh] showed rather clearly that the West wishes not so much to settle the conflict as to hold Ter-Petrosyan in power."

The adviser said that in the course of the 24 January consultations, Mario Rafaelli marked the positive changes, taken place recently in the Armenian approach to the conflict. In its turn, Azerbaijani side requested to announce about it officially.

Guluzade also stressed that at present Armenia occupies one tenth of the Azerbaijani territory. "And Azerbaijan must do everything in its power to change the situation."

The adviser outlined the Azerbaijani leadership's wish to find diplomatic and political solution to the conflict. But he thinks that Armenia is to display an act of good will and cancel the acts about joining Karabakh to Armenia, passed by the Armenian Government.

CIS Participation's Aspects Viewed

NC2501214293 Baku TURAN in English 1357 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 25 Jan (TURAN)—"The participation of Azerbaijan as an observer in the CIS frame is necessary and the summit of the heads of states in Minsk showed once again, that we did a correct choice," says the adviser of the Azeri president on international issues Vafa Guluzade today at the press-conference, devoted the results of the Minsk summit.

"This decision has a principal nature and in future will promote the strengthening of the positions of Azerbaijan," he said.

Guluzade considers that CIS can have positive perspectives, if participation in this organization would be of deliberative nature. "No one republic will allow to interfere in its internal affairs. And it was evident when the Ukraine and Belarus refused to sign the declaration for human's rights, which provided the collective measures towards the Republic [Azerbaijan], considered as a violator of human rights," marked Guluzade.

CSCE's Rafaelli's Visit Examined

NC2601085493 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] The heads of the CIS countries met in Minsk for the first time in six months last week. A delegation from our republic attended the summit as an observer. On 20 January, President Abulfaz Elchibey received Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the CSCE Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Vefa Guluzade, state adviser on foreign affairs, who attended the two meetings, held a news conference to brief the journalists on his views. He described the Minsk summit, which was attended by the heads of state and representatives of 11 countries, as a final effort to reinstate the former alliance in one way or another. He said the main objective of the summit was to have the CIS charter signed. Two of the provisions of that document, those relating to the concept of collective security and the concept of collective defense, caused a serious difference of views. President Kravchuk said the inclusion of the two provisions will destroy the independence of Ukraine. The president of Moldava refused to sign the charter and the speaker of the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet said he was not authorized by his parliament to sign the document. Reaching agreement to sign the charter during the debate was impossible. The Minsk summit recommended the charter be prepared for signing after the independent republic parliaments debate it.

Recalling the summit's debate on the situation in Tajikistan, Vefa Guluzade said: Although a decision was adopted that each CIS republic send a battalion to Tajikistan, it became obvious that such a measure will not help to settle the problem. Byelarus, Ukraine, and Moldova said clearly they will not send troops to Tajikistan. Russia said it preferred the problem to be solved by the republics in Central Asia.

Commenting on Mario Rafaelli's visit to Azerbaijan, Guluzade stressed that the West regards the war as a dispute over Karabakh, not as a question of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan. It feels uneasy over the situation in Armenia, but, as President Elchibey stressed in his reaction to the joint communique issued by former President Bush and Boris Yeltsin some time ago, Armenia is to blame for the failure of each step taken to establish peace.

Answering journalists' questions, Guluzade said the unfounded propaganda of the diaspora Armenians created the impression that Azerbaijan has imposed a blockade against Armenia. He said: We have already informed Rafaelli that Armenia is to blame for the blockade. Every effort should be made to obstruct the aggression against our republic's territory and to halt the war. Azerbaijan supports settling the dispute through talks.

Fighting Stops Rafaelli From Visiting Stepanakert

NC2501213693 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1313 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Baku 25.01.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Mr. Mario Rafaelli [chairman of the CSCE conference on Nagorno-Karabakh] couldn't visit Khankendi [Stepanakert] as he planned because of difficult military situation and the lack of security's guarantee, ASSA-IRADA was told by Araz Azimov, chief of International Organizations Department of the Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Mario Rafaelli left for Yerevan yesterday evening with the packet of Azerbaijan side's proposal on peaceful settlement of the conflict from withdrawal of Armenian troops from the territory of the upper Karabakh up to the return of peaceful residents home.

Leadership Encourages Direct Relations With Germany

OW2501200893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey gives priority to revivifying ties with Germany in the area of foreign relations, according to Azerbaijani State Secretary Panakh Guseynov's statements in an interview with Interfax. Guseynov spoke of Baku's intentions to establish direct relations with Bonn, for the purpose of which it is expected that a large group of German industrialists and businesspeople will visit the Azerbaijani capital on February 4th. The Germans plan to hold meetings with the head of state and representatives of the republic's leadership.

According to the secretary, specific joint projects will be discussed during the visit, in particular plans for copper mines in Azerbaijan, the use of private German capital in the construction of car and textile factories and processing enterprises. It has also been proposed that the question be decided of when to open a network of stores in Germany which would sell Azerbaijani black caviar.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Interfax has been told by Gafiz Babayev, the president of the Azer Balyg concern, that Azerbaijan plans to bring its caviar production up to 100 tons a year in 1993.

Guseynov further said that the volume of trade between Germany and Azerbaijan is now approximately $14 Mn [million] per year in which Azerbaijan enjoys a positive balance of about $6 Mn. The secretary believes that if negotiations go successfully and plans for this year are realized, "the volume of bilateral trade may grow by 10-15 times."

Commenting on the results of his recent unofficial visit to Germany on 19-21 January, Guseynov reported that he had reached agreements with such German firms as BMW, Mercedes, Siemens, Krupp, Thyssen, and various others to organize joint ventures in key areas of the Azerbaijani economy, as well as to open direct flights from Frankfurt-am-Main to Baku.

Baku Reports Shellings, Armenian Helicopter Hit

NC2501140093 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Analytical Information Center's communique reads:

The Azerbaijani Armed Forces maintain their combat operations. Our artillery units have shelled enemy positions in various areas to support our advancing forces. Enemy military vehicles in Kyzylkaya were also shelled last night. An Armenian fuel depot was destroyed in the attack and the Armenian positions engulfed with fire.

Failing to resist our military forces, the enemy fires on our residential areas with various arms. Novo-Ivanovka in Kedabekskiy Rayon and [placename indistinct] in Tauzskiy Rayon were fired on from Armenia again last night. The Armenians fired on [placename indistinct] in Zangelanskiy Rayon, (Aruz) in Fizulinskiy Rayon, Kokhne Kyshlalk in Akstafa Rayon, and [placename indistinct] in Kazakhskiy Rayon today. The enemy was silenced. The situation is stable now.

An Armenian helicopter that penetrated our airspace in fog this morning was hit by our republic's air defense units. Armenia's claims that it shot down an Azerbaijani aircraft are baseless and unfounded.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1240 GMT on 25 January in a report by Azertac correspondent Elchin Sardarov for TASS adds: "The border village of Novo-Ivanovka in Azerbaijan's Kedabekskiy Rayon was subjected today to intensive shelling from the direction of Armenia. The Republic's Defense Ministry has circulated a report saying that there are casualties among both civilians and servicemen. According to the same report, the border settlements of Zangelanskiy, Tauzskiy, Kazakhskiy, and Fizulinskiy Rayons were also shelled this morning. "Grad" launchers were used in the shelling. Operations to liberate Azerbaijani villages in the upper Karabakh and Lachin rayon are continuing. It is reported that another helicopter of the Armenian Air Force was downed yesterday."]

Barracks Explosion Kills 17 in Baku 24 Jan

NC2501203593 Baku TURAN in English 1358 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 25 Jan (TURAN)—TURAN agency was credibly informed that one of the barracks of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces suffered from [a] mighty explosion last night. In the result 17 were killed and 35 wounded.

According to preliminary datas, the barrack was blown up [by] a blasting machine with big power. There are reasons to think that a diversion took place there. The criminal case has been brought and the inquiry into the incident started.

Forces Attack Askeran Region, Down Armenian Aircraft

OW2501181993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the morning of January 25, after an artillery attack, Azerbaijani formations attempted to advance on the village of Karaglukh in the Askeran region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Karabakh news agencies report that the attack was fought off.

At the same time, according to reports from Stepanakert, other villages in the Askeran region were also subjected to artillery fire, as were towns in Karabakh's Mardakert region.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reports that an Armenian plane was shot down. The plane was firing missiles at the villages of Novo- Ivanovka and Novo-Saratovka, located in Azerbaijan's Kedabek region, which borders on Armenia.

Baku reported that an Armenian attack on the Fizuli Division was fought off, and said the regional centers of Agdam and Fizuli sustained artillery fire.

'Partial Mobilization' in Lachin Region

LD2601123993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1014 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By AZERTAC for TASS]

[Text] Baku January 26 TASS—A partial mobilization has been announced by a decree of the Azeri president in the Lachin region between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The document, distributed Tuesday by AZERTAC, says this action was taken in accordance "with an earlier passed decree by the government head on constituting the republic's Armed Forces and the participation of the region's inhabitants from the ages of 18 to 40 in the liberation of its territory now partially occupied by Armenian forces."

Georgia

Russian-Georgian Talks Continue in Tbilisi

LD2501162093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report by Nana Gongadze; from the "Novosti" newcast]

[Text] The third round of talks between Russia and Georgia began today. They are dealing in particular with the legal status of Russian troops in Georgia.

[Gongadze] Talks between the Russian and Georgian state delegations resumed today. They began with a discussion of the text of a treaty on friendship and cooperation. Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze proposed concluding another treaty, on the principles of trade and economic cooperation. The proposal was accepted. Georgia is to draft the text of this treaty and submit it for examination.

An extra item of business was added to the agenda today: cooperation between customs services. A group from the Russian customs is expected in Tbilisi soon.

During the afternoon the status of Russia's border troops temporarily stationed on Georgian territory was discussed. Meanwhile, the experts are finalizing the text of a consular convention.

[Begin recording of Russian Ambassador to Georgia V. V. Zemskiy] On the whole, we reached agreement on the text. There are a few details outstanding, but the first day of the talks has been a success. [end recording]

In his traditional Monday radio speech, Eduard Shevardnadze signalled that Russia's role in resolving the Abkhazia-Georgia conflict might be strengthened, and that it is no easy matter to break off relations with a country to which Georgia has been closely linked for 200 years, that is, Russia.

Incidentally, it is the Georgian leaders's birthday today. Eduard Shevardnadze is now 65. A year ago he was the most popular politician in Georgia. According to Jack Matlock, former U.S. ambassador to the USSR, Shevardnadze approaches most problems in a nonideological way and does not waste time trying to convert the other side to his faith.

Shevardnadze Suggests Bigger Russian Role in Abkhaz Talks

OW2501200693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze considers that the talks currently taking place in Tbilisi between Russia and Georgia should be elevated to a status which "was of meaning for every inhabitant of the republic." In his Monday radio broadcast he stated that "relations with a nation with which we have had close relations for 200 years must not be mechanically destroyed. Whatever has been spoken about historical injustices on Russia's part must not be considered as having been a threat to genuine integration."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: In a speech on relations between Russia and Georgia to the Georgian parliament on Friday, Shevardnadze pointed out that "Georgia's national interests today demand good relations with Russia just as they do with her other neighbors. If these relations are broken off, this would mean that our economy would come to a standstill and that other negative phenomena would appear." He also stressed that "there are still very influential forces in Russia which have dreams about revitalizing the Soviet Empire." He also spoke on the need for "every kind of support" for the campaign for democracy in Russia. He said that "sound Russian politicians are well aware that there is to be no return to the past since the world community will not allow this." He added that "a dismembered Georgia would be of no assistance to a democratic Russia, since this could set off a chain reaction in Russia itself and bring about a real threat of her collapse."

Regarding the situation in Abkhazia, Shevardnadze stressed that every effort was currently being made in the republic to achieve an end to the war there. "A war in one's own country is a senseless one and must not be permitted to last indefinitely," he said.

The Georgian leader did not rule out the possibility of stepping up the dialogue with Abkhazia. He also considered that Russia's role as mediator in the resolution of the conflict in Abkhazia within the framework of the agreement signed in Moscow September 3 last year could be increased. He said, however, that U.N. and CSCE representatives must be present in the conflict area "to provide us with insurance guarantees."

The third round of talks between Russia and Georgia began in Tbilisi Monday. The two sides are discussing a draft friendship and collaboration agreement, the status and conditions for the presence of Russian border troops and Armenian sub-divisions on Georgian territory, and time schedules for the presence of Russian troops there. Feliks Kovalev, the head of the Russian delegation, considered that the new round of talks would enable a mutually acceptable position for both sides to be found and result in the preparation of the appropriate agreements for discussion at a governmental level.

Political Parties Oppose Signing Treaty With Russia

PM2601095793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Besik Urigashvili: "Georgian Political Parties Oppose Signing of Russian-Georgian Treaty"]

[Text] Tbilisi—The third round of the Russian-Georgian talks, which resumed in Tbilisi 22 January, will involve the finalization of a draft grand treaty between the two countries and, possibly, the signing of it.

As is well known, a group of Russian experts headed by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov arrived in Tbilisi before the talks began. He met twice with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and had numerous contacts at the Georgian Foreign Ministry.

In his public interviews in Tbilisi Pastukhov constantly stressed that the signing of an all-embracing treaty regulating all aspects of relations between the two countries is of great importance both for Georgia and for Russia. Eduard Shevardnadze has made similar statements on many occasions, saying that relations with Russia are a priority and are of vital importance for Georgia. But despite Shevardnadze's determination to sign a treaty with Russia, he will find it hard to accomplish this. The political pragmatism of the Georgian state head and his team, who are perfectly well aware that it will be incredibly difficult for Georgia in present conditions without close economic and political links with Russia and consideration of certain interests of Georgia's powerful northern neighbor, is encountering very strong opposition from many political parties represented in parliament.

On 20 January, on the eve of the start of the third round of the talks, the political parties decided to join forces in that area. On the initiative of the Georgian National Independence Party, headed by Irakliy Tsereteli, a young, radically minded leader, formerly an active dissident, representatives of around a dozen political organizations held a coordination meeting at which they opposed the conclusion of a treaty with Russia until the latter admits its aggression against and annexation and occupation of Georgia and withdraws its forces, first from Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region and then from the whole of Georgia.

The political parties' maximalist demands, out of touch with real politics, could well meet with support in society.

At the same time, many people are aware that without cooperation with Russia and the other CIS republics, the Georgian economy is in for a disaster. But the opposition parties, for their part, are in no position to propose an alternative way out of the economic crisis. The supporters of the signing of the treaty also cite as a weighty argument the fact that without close relations with Russia it will be impossible to settle the Abkhaz conflict and achieve final stabilization in the Tskhinvali region.

Abkhazia Not Involved in Georgia-Russia Talks

LD2501180093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Interview with Abkhazia Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzhinba by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; recorded—from the "Itogi" program]

[Text] [Correspondent] The mass media have carried all kinds of rumors about your fate in the last couple of weeks. You were said to be somewhere abroad or

wounded or sick, or even that you had been killed. What gave rise to such a wealth of speculation, and how in fact do you feel at the moment?

[Ardzinba] Well, I am able to say that rumors of my being wounded and even more of my death are greatly exaggerated, as you can see for yourself. These reports are rather a reflection of the wishful thinking that is quite natural to the mentality of people who have made state terrorism the basis of their politics.

[Correspondent] Russia and Georgia are currently engaged in fairly active talks to regulate relations between them. Have they involved you in discussions on this problem? Have you had a chance to state your opinion in this regard?

[Ardzinba] No one told us about the talks that are being held, but in connection with your question I might recall, let us say, the resolution and statement of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and I should like to point out that the policy of resolving the Akhazia problem by force continues. Genocide is continuing, people are still being killed. When attempts are made to annihilate us, we are obliged to defend ourselves.

Helicopters Carrying Russian Aid Head to Tkvarcheli

OW2601100293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0933 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Three helicopters with Russian humanitarian aid took off in the morning 26 January for the Abkhazian town of Tkvarcheli which had been blockaded by Georgian forces. INTERFAX got this information in Sochi from the operating headquarters of the Russian State Committee on Emergency Situations. In the helicopters are flour, cereals, some medicaments and rescue workers.

It is expected that by the evening of Tuesday [26 January] the helicopters will return to Sochi with refugees from Tkvarcheli.

The first flight of the Russian helicopters with humanitarian aid, which is being realized through the UN, could not take place on Monday as planned due to bad weather.

During the whole operation Russian helicopters must deliver to the blockaded town 139 tons of food (flour, sugar, potatoes, vegetable oil). In the combined operation will be 10 Mi-8 helicopters from Sochi and Nalchik and 2 Mi-6 from Tyumen.

About 5,000 persons are to be immediately evacuation from Tkvarcheli.

It was announced in the State Committee on Emergency Situations that the helicopters will be inspected by Georgian representatives in Sochi and Tkvarcheli. It is planned they will be reinspected in Sukhumi where there will be a stop-over. It is assumed that the Russian helicopters will be escorted by Georgian aircraft.

Police Thwart Attack on Russian Servicemen

LD2501201393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1952 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Police in the city of Marneuliy headed off an attempt by 18 national guardsmen to disarm two Russian servicemen and seize their service bus. Footage of this was shown on republican television today. Automatic weapons, grenades, and ammunition were seized from the attackers. The guardsmen were also found to possess hashish and other narcotics.

Russian Guards To Remain on Turkish Border 'Two More Years'

OW2501190293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Two agreements will be signed on Tuesday [26 January] at the end of the negotiations between Russian and Georgian border guard commanders, Georgian border guard commander General Panteleimon Georgadze has said in an interview. He said the agreement to be signed would concern the status and term of the presence of Russian border guards in Georgia. Russian border guards will keep an eye on the border with Turkey for two more years. Besides, Russia will help Georgia form its own border guard force.

The latter agreement provides for the transition of weapons and other equipment to Georgia and the training of officers and men by Russian military experts.

Abkhazia, Transdniestr, Gagauzia Sign Friendship Treaty

OW2501183593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A friendship and collaboration agreement was signed between two self-proclaimed republics - the Transdniester Republic in Moldova, and Abkhazia in Tiraspol - on Monday [25 January]. Interfax was informed by an official representative of the Transdniesterian parliament that the two sides would, if attacked, hold talks and, if circumstances allowed, grant each other assistance in defense against the aggressor.

Tiraspol and Gudauta condemned the method of resolving political issues by arms and spoke in favor of an exclusively peaceful means of resolving the conflicts in Transdniestr and Abkhazia.

Representatives of the self-proclaimed Gagauzian Republic were also party to the friendship and collaboration agreement between Abkhazia and Transdniester.

Interfax was informed by V. Movcan, first deputy head of the Gagauzian representation in Moscow, that an Abkhazian delegation led by Vladislav Ardzinba, who would represent parliament, intended to attend a session of the Gagauzian parliament January 29.

Shevardnadze To Sign Agreement With Azerbaijan

OW2601100593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0934 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leaders of Georgia and Azerbaijan, Eduard Shevardnadze and Abulfaz Elchibey, will sign, tentatively next week in Baku, a declaration on the principles of cooperation and good neighborliness. The agreement on the visit to Azerbaijan by the Georgian leader, INTERFAX learnt from his press secretary Revas Egadze, was reached in the evening of 25 January during a telephone conversation between Shevardnadze and Elchibey.

According to Egadze, it is planned that in Baku a package of Georgian-Azerbaijani agreements on trading banking and investment cooperation, and interaction in the area of customs control will be signed.

Communique Signals 'Bright Prospects' for Ties With Iran

AU2501180993 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 21 Jan 92 p 1

["Joint Communique of the Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran"; place and date not given]

[Text] At the invitation of Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Batoni Eduard Shevardnadze, Republic of Georgia head of state-chairman of Parliament, heading a high-ranking political and economic delegation, visited the Islamic Republic of Iran on 19-20 January 1993, correspondingly on 29-30 Dei [Dei] 1371 Hijrah. [as published] In the course of the visit, the leaders of the two states held several meetings. They confirmed their intention to cooperate in every sphere of bilateral, international, and regional problems.

Expressing their fear of regional conflicts, the two sides stated the need to halt war and bloodshed in the region and resolve controversial issues by political means. In this respect, welcoming the mediation efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Georgian side expressed the need to halt military operations in this region. It called upon the sides involved in the conflict to reject military force and [to adopt] restraint. The Georgian side expressed its readiness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in this sphere. Both sides stated that relations between the Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran could be turned into an important factor for establishing peace and stability in the region.

The sides, categorically rejecting any kind of changes to borders, support the preservation of the territorial integrity and national administration of the countries in the region and the establishment of peace and security.

The leaders of both countries expressed their readiness to cooperate seriously in the matter of resolving regional and international problems. The sides condemned the increased attempts to seize territory and settle scores on ethnic grounds in the period following the end of the Cold War.

The leaders of both countries, pointing to the great importance of the Caucasian region, expressed the need to continue consultations on regional issues and welcomed each other's initiative in the matter of establishing peace and quiet.

Pointing out the great importance of bilateral relations, the sides reached agreement on cooperation in various spheres of political, economic, and cultural matters. In this respect, the sides prepared and signed documents on cooperation in the spheres of land, sea, and air transport, communications, the economy, trade, sport, tourism, science and culture, agriculture, and civil engineering.

In view of the greatest importance of relations between the parliaments of both countries, the sides signed a memorandum of mutual understanding on cooperation between the two parliaments.

Pointing out the importance of increasing the level of regional cooperation in the matter of development and prosperity, the two sides expressed their readiness to expand commercial and economic relations by increasing trade turnover.

Stressing the greatest importance of transit routes between the Near East and the Caucasus for expanding commercial and economic cooperation, the sides confirmed their intention to implement the agreements adopted in the spheres of transport and road and air communications.

The sides added that the declaration on the principles of friendly cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Georgia, which has been signed by the heads of state, creates a firm foundation and bright prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.

State Establishes Diplomatic Relations With Indonesia

AU2601102293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Yesterday, a joint [word indistinct] on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the governments of the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Indonesia was held at the Republic of Georgia Embassy in Moscow. The (?agreement) was signed by Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] [name indistinct], ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia in the Russian Federation, and Batoni Petre Chkheidze, acting ambassador and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation.

Text of Law on Martial Law Published

AU2501141993 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 7 Jan 93 p 2

["Republic of Georgia Law on Martial Law" issued in Tbilisi on 24 December 1992]

[Text] Article 1. Martial law is a special regime that, in accordance with the Republic of Georgia's Law "on State Power" and this law and proceeding from the interests of defending the Republic of Georgia, is declared on the whole territory of the Republic of Georgia or in individual regions of the country.

The aim of declaring martial law is to protect this country's territorial integrity, the security of the state, and public order.

Article 2. In accordance with the Republic of Georgia Law "on State Power," the Georgian Parliament declares martial law or approves the declaration of martial law on the whole territory of the Republic of Georgia or in individual regions. In the event that martial law is declared by the chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state, he is to submit the question on the declaration of martial law within 72 hours to Parliament for discussion. The decision of Parliament requires two thirds of registered [siiti shemadgenlobis] members of Parliament.

Article 3. When martial law is introduced, the reasons for the adoption of such a decision, its period of duration, and territorial limits will be indicated, and announced on the radio, television, and other mass media within 12 hours of coming into force.

The Georgian Parliament, which adopts the decision on the declaration of martial law, has the right to rescind it before it comes into effect or prolong its period of duration if the circumstances forming the basis for the declaration of martial law still exist.

The decree on the revocation of martial law or on its prolongation require two thirds of the registered members of Parliament for adoption.

Article 4. Following the declaration of martial law, the functions of the leadership of the republic's executive bodies on the whole territory of the country in the sphere of ensuring the protection of public order and the security of the state are to be transferred to the head of state of the Republic of Georgia-supreme commander in chief.

Article 5. Following the declaration of martial law, representatives of the military authorities, who are appointed by the head of state supreme commander in chief, have the right:

1) to employ all the measures established by current Republic of Georgia legislation in order to ensure public order, the security of the state, and the functioning of vitally important installations in the national economy;

2) temporarily to evacuate citizens from regions where their lives are in danger and, at the same time, provide them with temporary or other living accommodation;

3) introduce a special regime for citizens regarding their departure from and entry into that region of the country where martial law has been declared;

4) to mobilize citizens in order to protect the railroads, telecommunications, power generators and other important installations;

5) temporarily to confiscate from citizens firearms and bladed weapons and ammunition and from departments military-scientific equipment, explosives, radioactive substances and materials, and chemical and other substances;

6) to introduce a special work regime in departments and public and economic organizations; to determine their economic activities or other questions in order to strengthen the state's defense capability;

7) to prohibit gatherings, rallies, street marches and demonstrations, and also other large-scale manifestations;

8) to prohibit strikes;

9) to restrict or prohibit trade in weapons, ammunition, and poisonous chemical substances;

10) to restrict or prohibit trade in alcoholic drinks;

11) to introduce a special regime for the use of telecommunications; to restrict or prohibit the use of radios and televisions and audio and video machines; to establish control over the mass media;

12) to check documents at places where citizens gather; to organize the search of personal belongings and check hand luggage and transport;

13) proceeding from reasons of defense, temporarily to transfer workers to jobs that are not stipulated in their labor contract;

14) to prohibit individual citizens from leaving population centers for a specific period of time; to send those persons not resident in a given place to their permanent place of residence at their own expense;

15) to introduce quarantine or implement public-health measures aimed at preventing epidemics;

16) to appoint or dismiss heads of departments.

Article 6. In order to implement the measures stipulated in Paragraph 5 of this law, the Republic of Georgia National Security and Defense Council has the right:

1) to introduce a special regime for citizens in connection with their departure from and entry onto the territory of the Republic of Georgia;

2) to issue decrees that must be implemented on the whole territory of the Republic of Georgia;

3) to give directives to local administrative bodies and departments and demand that they be immediately implemented;

4) to revoke any decision by lower-level bodies if it considers that it hinders the stabilization of the situation locally;

Article 7. Following the declaration of martial law, citizens travelling on that territory where martial law is in force are obliged to carry identification documents and, during curfew hours, a special pass that, when necessary, is issued by the military authorities.

Article 8. Infringement of those rules stipulated in Points 2-15 of Article 5 and in Article 7 of this law will correspondingly result in administrative responsibility or legal action in accordance with existing Republic of Georgia legislation.

Article 9. Citizens who have suffered in connection with work carried out during martial law or its revocation will be compensated for the material damage that they have incurred and, if necessary, will receive living accommodation.

The rules and conditions governing the allocation of an apartment, compensation for damage incurred, and other necessary assistance will be determined by the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers.

Article 10. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs will immediately notify the UN secretary general about the declaration of martial law or its revocation. [Signed] E. Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state

V. Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament

[Dated] Tbilisi, 24 December 1992

Text of Law on Defense of Republic Published

AU2501142993 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 31 Dec 92 p 2

["Republic of Georgia Law on the Defense of the Republic of Georgia;" issued in Tbilisi on 22 December]

[Text] The function of the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces is to protect the independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty of the Republic of Georgia.

Chapter I

General Regulations

Article 1. The Basic Principles of the Defense of the Republic of Georgia

The Republic of Georgia is a peace-loving state and seeks peace and cooperation with all states on the basis of the principles of international law.

The military policy of the Republic of Georgia is one of defense. Georgia is a state that has no nuclear weapons. It has committed itself not to produce, maintain, or allow nuclear weapons or other means of mass destruction on its territory. Georgia views war as an unacceptable means of resolving problems between states. It will never be the first to begin combat operations against any country and will not involve itself in any war unless it itself has become the object of aggression.

Article 2. The Principles of the Defense Policy of the Republic of Georgia

The principles of the defense policy of the Republic of Georgia are:

a) Georgia is an active neutral country, which is guided by the principle of the defense sufficiency of its Armed Forces and armaments;

b) Georgia protects its independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty on all of its territory with its own forces;

c) Georgia, in respect of its own military force, should not lag behind any other country that is equal to it in terms of territory and human resources;

d) Georgia's military forces should be able to halt the advance of an enemy on Georgia's borders and also repulse an enemy's aerial, artillery, or rocket attacks on any point of Georgian territory;

e) Georgia's Armed Forces should be able to deliver a retaliatory strike on any aggressor.

Article 3. The Legal Regulations Governing the Territory of the Republic of Georgia

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Georgia protect the land under its exclusive sovereignty, its internal and national waters, the existing minerals beneath them, and the aerial space above this territory.

The legal regulations governing the territory of the Republic of Georgia will be determined by Georgian legislation and international norms.

Chapter II

The Legal Rights of State Power and the Administrative Bodies in the Sphere of the Defense of the Republic of Georgia

Article 4. The Legal Rights of the Georgian Parliament in the Sphere of Defense

The Georgian Parliament is responsible for forming the defense of the Republic of Georgia, state military policy, regulating legislation, and military organizational development.

On the recommendation of the head of state-commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the Georgian Parliament:

approves the Republic of Georgia National Security and Defense Council and its statutes;

determines and establishes military doctrine and the concept of military organizational development;

determines the amount of budgetary allocations for defense, its structure, and the size and organization of the Armed Forces;

resolves questions concerning the country's state borders;

resolves questions concerning war and peace;

establishes the rules for service in the Armed Forces;

declares a state of war;

declares martial law and a state of emergency or confirms their declaration;

institutes top military and special ranks on the basis of recommendations from the corresponding ministries;

implements the complete or partial division of Georgian territory into military districts and other military regional units.

Article 5. The Chairman of the Georgian Parliament-Head of State

The chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state is the commander-in-chief of all branches of the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces, chairman of the National Security and Defense Council, and the person directly responsible for defense and the state of the Armed Forces.

The chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state:

declares mobilization and a state of war and martial law and submits this question within 72 hours to Parliament for discussion;

in order to guarantee the security of citizens, issues a warning on the declaration of a state of emergency throughout the country or in individual places and, if necessary, announces its introduction; at the same time, he submits this question within 72 hours to Parliament for approval;

Appoints high-ranking military personnel;

confers top military ranks;

determines annually the number of draftees for military service;

submits to Parliament for discussion drafts on military doctrine, military organizational development, and military allocations and financing;

coordinates the activities of state bodies in order to guarantee the country's defense;

conducts negotiations with foreign states and signs international treaties and reaches agreement on questions of joint defense, military cooperation, and collective security and disarmament;

orders, within his jurisdiction, Republic of Georgia Armed Forces to begin military operations and to use combat weapons.

Article 6. The Republic of Georgia National Security and Defense Council

The Republic of Georgia National Security and Defense Council represents the supreme state body of defense and security of the Republic of Georgia, whose fundamental task is to guarantee the country's defense and security and order.

The National Security and Defense Council is accountable before Parliament.

The head of state is the chairman of the National Security and Defense Council.

The National Security and Defense Council directs the work of the Cabinet of Ministers in times of war, martial law, and states of emergency.

Article 7. The Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers

The Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers, within its jurisdiction, guarantees the strengthening of the defense capability of the Republic of Georgia and the security of the state.

The Cabinet of Ministers:

directs the activities of those bodies and organizations under its jurisdiction concerned with ensuring that the Armed Forces are provided with military equipment and other material resources;

organizes military mobilization, determines the conditions for transferring the national economy onto a war footing, and issues normative acts in connection with this;

approves plans for reserves of material resources during mobilization;

ensures the fulfillment of international agreements on questions of defense.

Article 8. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense

The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense represents the state body of administration of the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces and is responsible for their training, development, and fulfillment of defense tasks.

The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense:

is responsible for and ensures the combat readiness of the Armed Forces;

prepares drafts on military doctrine and the military budget;

analyzes and evaluates military-political development and determines possible dangers;

elaborates and submits to the head of state for discussion a program for the military organizational development of the Republic of Georgia and drafts on the development of the Armed Forces and military hardware;

organizes the development of military research work;

establishes the branches of the Armed Forces and their composition and ensures the training of military cadres and their reallocation;

ensures the military-patriotic indoctrination of military personnel and civilians;

organizes military service and mobilization.

Article 9. Other State and Administrative Bodies

Other state and administrative bodies are obliged to adopt all measures in order to guarantee the country's defense capability.

Article 10. Citizens' Duty

The defense of the territory of the Republic of Georgia is the duty of persons (citizens) permanently residing on its territory.

Chapter III

The Republic of Georgia Armed Forces

Article 11. The Republic of Georgia Armed Forces

The deployment, activities, and organizational development of the Armed Forces and the rules of service in them are determined by Republic of Georgia laws and legislative acts adopted in accordance with them.

Article 12. The Composition of the Republic of Georgia Single Armed Forces

The Republic of Georgia single Armed Forces are to be made up of:

the Army;

border troops;

Ministry of Internal Affairs internal troops.

The creation of other types of armed forces or other subordinate armed forces is possible only by a decision of Parliament.

Article 13. The Principles Underlying the Activities of the Armed Forces

The principles underlying the activities of the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces are:

the centralization of command;

democracy, humaneness, and subordination to the law;

freedom of religion;

universal military service obligation;

mobilization and combat readiness;

social and legal security for military servicemen.

Article 14. A State of War, Martial Law, and a State of Emergency

The declaration of a state of war, martial law, and a state of emergency and their legal regulations are determined by current legislation.

Article 15. Mobilization

During a state of war or martial law, partial or full mobilization is declared.

The rules governing mobilization are determined by Republic of Georgia legislation.

Article 16. The Responsibility of Citizens, Officials, and Military Servicemen

If they break this law, citizens, officials, and military servicemen are held responsible according to the rules established in Republic of Georgia legislation and the circumstances.

Article 17. Legislation on the Defense of the Republic of Georgia

Legislation on the defense of the Republic of Georgia consists of the Republic of Georgia Law "on State Power," this law, and other legislative acts.

[Signed] E. Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state
V. Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament
[Dated] Tbilisi, 22 December 1992

Estonia

Transfer of Russian Military Airfield in Khaapsalu Begins

OW2501210993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1922 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [25 January] representatives of the Russian Air Force transferred to Estonia the first building of the Khaapsalu military airfield, a repair shop. They plan to transfer ownership of the central transformer station to Estonia on Tuesday.

Hannes Loss, leader of the Estonian commission on receiving military establishments from the Russian Army, told BALTFAX that they expect to receive over 500 establishments from the airfield. "Judging from the experience of transferring the airfields in Sauga (near Pyarnu), the entire procedure could take about three weeks," said Loss.

International Group Proposed To Deal With Reactor Problems

OW2601120993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1154 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Estonian Foreign Affairs Ministry, reporting on behalf of the Working Group on Questions of Nuclear Safety, which acts under the jurisdiction of the Committee of Elders of the Soviet of Baltic Sea States, spoke in favour of the formation of a special international group to study problems concerned with the nuclear reactor and the storage of radioactive waste, at the Russian military naval base in the Estonian town of Paldiskiy.

This recommendation is contained in a document, drawn up at a meeting of the working group, held in Helsinki, January 21-22. Nine countries voted in favour of the document, only Russia voted against it.

On the insistence of the Russian representatives, the document contains notes to the effect that, the nuclear facility at Paldiskiy poses no danger to humans or the surrounding environment, the press service of the Estonian Foreign Affairs Ministry notes.

Riigikogu Ratifies Cooperation Agreement With EC

WS2501130193 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1653 GMT 22 Jan 93

[From 22 January RAHVA HAAL, HOMMIKULEHT, pp 1, 6]

[Text] 22 January 1993—The Riigikogu ratified the economic cooperation and trade agreement between Estonia and the EC with 75 votes. The agreement was signed by Jaan Manitski on May 11, 1992. The agreements grants both parties most favoured terms according to the GATT agreement. The agreement covers industrial and agricultural products with the exception of steel, coal and textile. The most favoured status concerns customs tariffs and export-import formalities.

The draft law on amendments to the penal code and administrative violations regulations passed its first reading. This draft included all articles concerning the metal trade. Violators of trade regulators will be either fined (up to 200 day's wages or jailed from 30 days to 5 years). The Riigikogu will have to rule whether the confiscation of the vehicles concerned will be decided by the court (as proposed by the Justice Minister Kaido Kama and the Ministry expert Endel Rannus) or law officials at the site (as proposed by the government and the Interior Ministry). Rannus stressed the necessity of protecting individuals against possible arbitrary actions of the officials.

The draft law on sea borders reached its first reading. The draft was presented by Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste who stressed that the territorial waters will cover 12 nautical miles "in general cases". A one-mile free zone should be left between Estonian territorial waters and international shipping routes, he said. Velliste denied that any state has exerted pressure on Estonia in the issue but failed to give satisfactory answers to the members' questions. He denied the existence of Russian underwater installations near the Estonian coast. Several members, Andra Veidemann (Centrist), Peeter Lorents (Coalition Party) and Juri Toomepuu (Estonian Citizen), protested against the interpretation offered by the Foreign Minister. Amendments are to be presented by next Thursday.

Antiapartheid Committee Circulates Leaflets on UN Notepaper

LD2501143693 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Excerpts] A committee for the struggle against apartheid has been set up in Estonia, and since a committee exists one can assume that apartheid also exists to be struggled against. Urmas Loit will continue:

[Loit] [passage omitted] Strange leaflets have been circulating in Tallinn, on UN notepaper, in Russian, informing residents of the Republic of Estonia that apartheid is a crime against humanity. The information is substantiated with an excerpt from UN resolution 42/23a of 20 November 1987. Among other things the quote emphasizes that one can fight the apartheid with arms. There is no direct appeal to an armed struggle nor any link with Estonia but a link to our circumstances here is created through the name of the committee which has signed the leaflets: the Committee for Struggle against Apartheid in Estonia.

We have information that these leaflets have been distributed in Kopli, for example. We will investigate the background to the committee and the leaflets.

I have asked Toivo Klaar, head of the Foreign Ministry's political department, for a comment:

[Klaar] We are surprised by the text, and of course one would never say that a resolution against apartheid would be aimed at Estonia. [passage omitted] Every citizen in Estonia, whether he is black, yellow, or white has equal rights with a fellow citizen, and consequently one cannot talk about apartheid in Estonia. As is known the situation in Estonia is such that we have citizens and we have individuals who either do or do not want to become citizens, but for the time being they are not citizens. Consequently there is a certain difference in their political rights: citizens can vote in the country's parliamentary elections and noncitizens cannot. This is customary in any state so we cannot speak of any particular discrimination. [passage omitted] But at the moment it seems that somebody is seeking some kind of official backing for his personal ambitions. [passage omitted]

Ship Detained for Carrying Scud Equipment Allowed To Sail

WS2501130093 Tallinn BNS in English 1911 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Augusta, Sicily, 22 January 1993, BNS—The "Waalhaven", a ship belonging to the Estonian Shipping Company and rented out to a Dutch company, that was a month ago detained near Sicily, was on January 21st allowed to sail out but without cargo.

The ship had been detained since it was thought to carry equipment for the modernization of "Scud"-type missiles, AP reports. The cargo was meant for North Korea. The German experts who checked the ship stated that the machine tools the "Waalhaven" was transporting may be used at car factories as well as for rebuilding missiles. Therefore, all 27 containers were unloaded in Augusta, and the ship headed for Beirut. Next week, the same ship, or some other vessel will return to Augusta in order to take the cargo back to Hamburg.

The "Waalhaven" is a 4000-tonner and was built in 1979.

Latvia

Russian Envoy Discusses Remaining Problems With Latvia

OW2201164393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 22 Jan 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] By far the most serious difficulty in relations between Russia and Latvia remains the retention of three Russian military installations on the republic's territory on a temporary basis after the withdrawal of Russian troops is complete. The installations in question are the missile warning station in Skrunda, the satellite tracking center in Ventspils, and the naval base in Liepaia. This was revealed to Diplomatic Panorama in an interview by Ambassador at Large Sergey Zotov, who is head of the Russian state delegation.

Zotov said a few days ago during the last round of talks in Jurmala that the Russian side had convincingly fought off attempts to make her pay rent for the land occupied by Russian troops in Latvia. "Russia did not bring these troops into Latvia," he said. "This is a problem concerning two former Soviet states, and both states are responsible for settliing this problem," he said.

Zotov said that special attention had been paid in Jurmala to the withdrawal of troops and the problems connected with this. Moscow's representatives considered that priority here must be given to humanitarian issues, particularly the situation faced by the Russian speaking population and its rights.

Unfortunately, the ambassador said, due to lack of preparations by the Latvian side, which had agreed to the non-inclusion of some experts, no documents on social welfare for servicemen and retired servicemen had been signed. This, Zotov said, this could do much to renew the withdrawal process.

The diplomat announced that the delegations in Jurmala has discussed the provisions of a framework agreement on the use of enterprises on Latvian territory which were being operated by the Russian forces. The document should be fully prepared by the next round of talks. The partners have, for the time being, reached agreement on on the formation on the base of these enterprises of joint ventures and joint stock companies. This, Zotov said, would help to ensure employment for Latvia's Russian speaking population.

Another positive outcome of the Jurmala talks, he said, was the fact that the Latvian side "had finally given its agreement to the urgent conclusion of full scale consular conventions between the two nations."

In addition, a protocol permitting both Russian and Latvian students to study unhindered in institutions in both nations was also signed. The exchange of students will take place on a services in kind basis. Collaboration will take place in the future in education and science and higher educational diplomas will be mutually recognised.

Zotov said that the Russian government would receive the text of a collaboration agreement in the field of communications. The main provisions of the document would, he said, concern the principles and conditions for transport and freight of goods by sea.

Much progress was made at the talks to formulate agreements on the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, the protection of the rights of immigrants, and the

professional interests of Latvian and Russian citizens working outside their own country.

The next round of talks is due to take place in Moscow in February this year.

Talks on Russian Troop Withdrawal Break Down

PM2501121993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 2

[Irina Litvinova report: "Talks Between Latvia And Russia End. Both Countries Intend To Appeal to CSCE"]

[Text] Riga—The Latvian and Russian delegations at interstate talks in Jurmala have terminated their sessions. The reason is the sharp divergence in approaches toward key issues of the talks.

Latvia announced that it considers Russian military-industrial complex enterprises situated on the Baltic state's territory to be its property. The Russian delegation believes such actions to be unilateral and not in line with Russia's interests. The military plants, Russian experts claim, are a component of the Russian forces now being withdrawn, since they are designed to ensure the vital activity of the Army. So the decision to expropriate them is an infringement of Russian property rights. Sergey Zotov, leader of the Russian Federation delegation, proposed discussing the following way of resolving this problem: setting up joint ventures or joint-stock companies on the basis of the contested plants, so that they bring in profits to both states. But the Latvian delegation continues to maintain its hardline approach.

Members of the delegation were also unable to get down to discussing a package of documents on social guarantees for Russian servicemen and military pensioners in Latvia.

The Latvian delegation insistently affirmed the need to confirm the timetable for the withdrawal of Russian troops from its territory and appoint international observers to monitor its fulfillment. S. Zotov put the problem differently: What kind of timetable can there be if an interstate agreement has not yet been signed on the withdrawal itself? He stressed that Russia had already, as an expression of goodwill toward its Baltic neighbor, withdrawn from Latvian territory around 40 percent of its servicemen stationed there.

Both sides stated that there will appeal to the CSCE and international organizations to win support for their position.

The leader of the Russian delegation announced that Russia will be unable to accept Latvia's claim of compensation for land used by the Russian Army (this constitutes 90 percent of the sum). Russia did not send its troops into Latvia, and they do not fulfill defensive functions. Their presence there is the common inheritance of Latvia and Russia from the USSR.

Ambassador to Russia Expects Little From Withdrawal Talks

WS2501130593 Riga LETA in English 0544 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 22 January 1993 (LETA)—"I would like to repeat the all-known thesis about attitude of Russia towards the Baltic states depending on the domestic political situation in Russia itself," Yanis Peters, the Latvian Ambassador in Russia, said after the current round of Latvian-Russian talks in Yurmala. "Russia itself is plunging into deeper political crisis. The contradictions between President and Government, on one hand, and the Congress and Supreme Council, on the other hand, become more sharp. In crisis, especially ahead of so important turning point as the referendum, there is only one idea left in Russian policy—that of nationalism. It is very much the same in the whole post-communist, post-socialist world because the last weapon of communists is nationalism. I think that this nationalism could be seen also during the talks so there simply could not be any sensational results in respect to the army withdrawal."

According to Yanis Peters, nothing sensational also happened in the talks with Estonia because Russia viewed the Baltic states as three independent countries only formally but actually it regards them just a Former Baltic Military Region.

Russia Responds to Latvian 'Tough Stance' at Talks

PM2501122793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 1

[Valeriy Gromak report under the "From Our News Bureau" rubric: "Russian-Latvian Talks Continue"]

[Text] Jurmala—At the Russian-Latvian talks in Jurmala the sides' representatives have been working in a commission on an agreement on problems of customs and border control, on transport questions, on property claims, and on social provision for pensioners and servicemen of the Russian Army and Navy.

Latvia's tough stance on many questions elicits an appropriate response from the Russian side. Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation at the talks, emphasized that Russia must not endlessly be placed in a humiliating position.

Meanwhile, Latvia has presented Russia with an account for 8,819,092,631 rubles. This is the estimated cost of the damage caused by the Russian Army's presence in Latvia just during the period 1 February through 31 December 1992.

EC Committee Head Sees Few Human Rights Violations

WS2501130793 Riga LETA in English 0544 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 22 January 1993 (LETA)—On Thursday [21 January] David Atkinson, Chairman of the European Council's Parliamentary Commission on Relations with Countries—not members of the EC, stated at the press conference that there were less human rights' violations in Latvia than in some other European countries. Mr. Atkinson was Head of the European Council's Delegation at the EC meetings, held in Estonia and Latvia at these countries' request.

To control Russian troops' withdrawal from the European countries, including the Baltic states, is one of the spheres of the EC Commission's activities. Mr. Atkinson pointed out that a special resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly would contain information gained by the Commission on the presence of Russian troops on the territories of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. He added that the resolution would be apparently adopted in summer.

The head of the European delegation assured journalists that Russia wouldn't become a full member of the European Council till its armed forces were located on the territories of other states.

Godmanis, EC Committee Discuss Russian Army Presence

WS2501130693 Riga LETA in English 0544 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 22 January 1993 (LETA)—Ivars Godmanis, the Prime Minister of Latvia, on Thursday [21 January] met with a delegation of the Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council, now visiting Latvia to examine the situation caused by the presence of the Russian Army in the Baltic states. A resolution on the presence of the Russian troops in the Baltic states is being worked out, and the document is due to be discussed in a session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council, which is expected to take place in May. The delegation plans also to study the situation of ethnic minorities living in Latvia.

Political, Economic Collaboration Planned With Lithuania

OW2501204593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1922 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting January 25 in Riga between Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis and Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislavas Lubys, a communique on fundamental principles of bilateral relations was signed, and an agreement was reached on preparations of an accord on friendship and comprehensive collaboration.

During a discussion of economic issues they reached an agreement on forming a free trade zone between the two states and on establishing a coordinating power in their contacts with Russia, which is currently the sole supplier of energy resources both to Latvia and to Lithuania. The ministers also examined a plan for forming an alternative network for obtaining energy resources. These plans are connected mainly with their possible intentions of participating in a project for shipping gas from the North Sea to Poland.

The prime ministers agreed on the formation of a bilateral commission on demarcating state borders and on preparations for a corresponding agreement.

A separate agreement was signed on a coordinating power to realize a project for constructing the international expressway "Via Baltica." In addition, both sides made plans to sign an agreement this year on collaboration in air and sea transport.

Lithuania

Former Envoy Asks For Continuity in Talks With Russia

OW2501193493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1759 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament, former Charge d'Affairs in Moscow, Egidijus Bickauskas has called for continuity in forming a new official delegation for talks with Russia.

Interviewed on Lithuanian television, Bickauskas said he hoped the new Lithuanian leaders were aware that negotiations with Russia were more important to Lithuania than any other talks, because the previous delegation had done a great job and that the chief delegate, Ceslovas Stankevicius largely took the credit for that. In making any changes to the delegation, its tremendous experience and knowledge should be made use of, Bickauskas said.

Acting President Brazauskas told a news conference last Friday that a new Lithuanian delegation for talks with Russia would be named this week.

Russian Army Breaks Law by Introducing Extra Contingent

OW2601121293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1154 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia is violating the agreement signed September last year in Moscow on the Russian army's presence in Lithuania," according to Colonel Stasys Knezys, the Lithuanian government's representative for issues concerning the withdrawal of the Russian army

from the republic's territory. Colonel Stasys was speaking at a briefing Tuesday.

He said that 929 servicemen had recently been brought in by some of the Russian paratroop units on Lithuanian territory. Of these soldiers, 207 had been brought in legally (in accordance with terms agreed by Lithuania) and the rest illegally.

The colonel told Baltfax, that the withdrawal of troops from the republic had slowed down considerably towards the end of last year and that virtually no more progress had been made until January 15 this year. He said that the withdrawal of Russian air force units was currently being stepped up. The aerodrome in the town of Panevezys had, he said, already been handed over to the Lithuanians. The one in Siauliai and several other installations will also be handed over shortly.

Russian Officer Detained Trying To Sell Ammunition

OW2501193093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Deputy Chief of Staff of a Russian army unit deployed in Alytus, southern Lithuania, Major Vasiliy Skoblikov was detained by Lithuanian law enforcement agencies late last week as he tried to sell explosives and hand grenades to private citizens.

At the moment he was detained, Major Skoblikov was in possession of 20 grenades, 50 kg of TNT blasting cartridges, detonators, safety fuse, cartridges, a smoke box and foreign currency.

Alytus Senior Police Commissar Vytautas Grigaravicius has said that earlier Skoblikov sold 75 kg of TNT. The police has evidence that some other servicemen of Major Skoblikov's unit have been selling grenade launchers.

The Alytus Prosecutor's Office has started criminal proceedings.

Center Movement Concerned About Russian Actions

WS2501131393 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1345 GMT 22 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 170]

[Text] 22 January 1993—The Center Movement of Lithuania (CML) addressed the Seym, requesting it to state its position on the past activities of Russia as related to the Baltic states. During the parliamentary session M.P. Romualdas Ozolas, representing the CML, announced a declaration about Russia's menace to Latvia. The document states that this year on January 14 in Russia's press secretary Viacheslav Kostikov's announcement, spoken in the name of the President, it was stressed that the transgressions of rights of Russians living in Latvia are so massive that relations between Latvia and Russia have been stretched to confrontational. Therefore Russia reserves itself the right to use necessary international, economic, political, and other means to ensure the ethnic rights of Russians in Latvia.

The CML declaration notes that the safeguarding of Latvian citizens rights is the fist question for the Latvian state and Latvian government organs with its citizens. Other residents' citizenship problems are resolved by negotiations and means with the interested states. Thus, Russia's pretension towards Latvia can definitely be described as meddling into the country's Internal Affairs and blatantly infringing on the sovereignty rights of the state of Latvia.

Government To Continue Paying Russia for Gas Deliveries

OW2601125293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1155 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania will continue to pay Russia for natural gas deliveries, though costs are likely to rise in the near future.

Ada Macezinskiene, Director of the Economic Department of the Lithuanian Ministry of Energy, told a BALTFAX correspondent that at the end of last week, some 10 mn [million] Swedish kronor (approximately $1.5 mn, or 700 mn rubles) were transferred to the account of the Russian concern Lentransgaz. The funds were given to Lithuania by the Government of Sweden as aid. Earlier, the concern had been directly paid 2 bn [billion] rubles by Lithuanian consumers. Lithuania's total debt for natural gas deliveries now totals 8 bn rubles. The state budget assigns 4 bn rubles for payment of these debts, while the remaining payments will be made with credits from Lithuanian banks.

According to the calculations of the Lithuanian Energy Ministry, however, in January alone, the nation's debt grew by 1 mn rubles because of the great difference in the value of the dollar in Russia and Lithuania.

Natural gas deliveries to Lithuania from Russia have stabilized of late. Russia is ready to deliver gas in volumes even exceeding Lithuania's needs; deliveries could total 12-13 mn cubic meters per day, while Lithuania requires about 9 mn cubic meters per day.

Cultural Exchange Agreement Signed With Poland

WS2501130393 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1345 GMT 22 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 170]

[Text] 22 January 1993—The Minister of Culture and Education of the republic of Lithuania Dainius Trinkaunas and the Culture and Art Deputy Minister of

the republic of Poland Michal Jagiello signed a cooperation and cultural exchange agreement for 1993-1994.

"It is very good, that our contacts, which started to strengthen three years ago, have now gained official status. The consenting ministries have agreed to cooperate in the name of their countries, said Michal Jagiello.

The agreement encompasses all the cultural fields. It is anticipated to exchange exhibitions, concerts, artist groups, and together take care of common Polish and Lithuanian historical and cultural monuments, and support the publication of periodicals in ethnic minority languages. General scientific expeditions will gather information on folklore, linguistics, history and cultural history of Lithuanians living in the Polish territory and of Poles in Lithuania.

Lozoraitis Holds Press Conference on Program, Goals

WS2501131493 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1345 GMT 22 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 170]

[Text] 22 January 1993—Yesterday at a press-conference Stasys Lozoraitis stressed the fact that he did not belong to any political party. "I have nominated myself, because I feel I could do much good for Lithuania and its people. I will be very grateful for any kind of support from any political party", Lozoraitis said.

Stasys Lozoraitis also said that, if he was elected the President of Lithuania, he would serve the Constitution and the people, never ingratiating himself with any political parties or groups. These are the main principles and goals of his programme. In order to achieve them, the President has to contact closely with political parties and separate people. According to Lozoraitis, the President also needs constant contacts with foreign states whose life is familiar to the candidate. He maintains relations with various people and thinks they will be very useful for Lithuania.

Stasys Lozoraitis said that his candidacy does not mean an opposition to Algirdas Brazauskas. "I would like to work with him, as he represents a bigger part of Lithuanian people". Lozoraitis mentioned two variants of such a cooperation: Algirdas Brazauskas—Chairman of the Seym or Prime Minister.

Stasys Lozoraitis answered many different questions by journalists. He is for good relations with eastern and western states. "It is strange that Lithuania does not have its embassies in Kiev, Minsk and that offers of the U.S. and German businessmen are not heard in Lithuania", Lozoraitis said.

The press-conference was organized before his first electoral trip which would start in Kaunas. Stasys Lozoraitis is going to visit all towns and regions of Lithuania. He has a lot to say to Lithuanian town and village people.

LDLP Wins Case on Contested Election Result

PM2501141593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 2

[Nikolay Lashkevich report: "Brazauskas' Party Appeals to the Courts and Wins Deputy Seats"]

[Text] Vilnius—The Lithuanian Supreme Court has again upheld the Democratic Labor Party's appeal against the results, approved in November of last year by the republic Main Electoral Commission, of the elections in the 21st electoral precinct of Klaipeda City Baltic Electoral District.

This is already the second case the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP] has won on the elections to the seimas. As IZVESTIYA has already reported, the Supreme Court earlier pronounced that LDLP member Z. Povilaitis had won in the 64th Siakiai electoral precinct and annulled the results of the election whereby the representative of the citizens' charter (the Sajudis party roll) became a member of the seimas. Thereby the LDLP's number of seats in the seimas was increased to 74. Now there will be even more deputies from this party—they will be joined by I. Siaulene, in whose victory in the Baltic district the Supreme Court was in no doubt.

Briefly, the crux of the matter is this. The Main Electoral Commission, after adding up the votes in this district, cast doubt on I. Siaulene's majority on the grounds that 40 of the more than 15,000 electors who voted in the 21st electoral precinct allegedly did not have Lithuanian citizenship. Trusting the information of the passport department, members of the Main Electoral Commission recorded a majority for "Sajudis" candidate R. Gofertene, and I. Siaulene, who was already celebrating his victory, having lost his majority through the votes taken away by the commission, ultimately lost the election. But now the court verdict has put everything in order: It turned out that all 40 persons are Lithuanian citizens, and therefore, there are no obstacles to I. Siaulene receiving his deputy's mandate.

In all likelihood, the LDLP will win the third case as well. Thus it will again increase the ranks of its parliamentary faction. However, the Main Electoral Commission, consisting mainly of "Sajudis" representatives, has decided not to concede, and has resolved not to submit to the court's ruling, but to wait for the completion of all three cases.

History, as we see, has taken not simply a scandalous turn, but an unseemly one. The refusal to obey a court ruling has created a dangerous precedent. The patience of the parliamentary majority has snapped, and on its initiative a commission has even been set up to examine the activity of the Main Electoral Commission. A further unprecedented step; just as, besides, court cases over the

results of the elections are themselves unusual. This is perhaps the first time we have had occasion to meet with an instance in which the third power [the judiciary] has intervened so drastically in the political battle and tried to prove that the law, irrespective of party membership, sympathies, or influence, should be respected. Will Lithuanian jurists manage to prove that the law must also be fulfilled?

Presidential Candidates Air Views in Television Debate

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[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [23 January] presidential candidates in Lithuania, the acting head of state Algirdas Brazauskas and the Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S. Statis Lozoraitis, spoke in a one hour program on the national television with a presentation of their programs.

Both candidates started their speeches with the announcement that they intend to "campaign in a spirit of respect and mutual understanding."

Brazauskas, in particular, expressed the opinion that the next president of Lithuania "must be neutral and not fall under the influence of political forces." Besides, in his opinion, the head of state must thoroughly know all the nuances of political, economic and social life of the country.

Brazauskas noted that now that Lithuania has achieved independence, economic problems have come to the fore. According to him, agriculture will be the decisive factor on which the republic's entire economy will depend. He said that corrections in existing agrarian reform should be made immediately. "Reform must not exist just for the sake of reform, it must ensure an improvement in the welfare of the people."

The presidential candidate stressed that "there will be no turning back, and the course of privatization of state property will continue. However reforms must be implemented taking into consideration their effect."

Speaking on the foreign policy of the Lithuanian state, Brazauskas emphasized that its basic principles must be pragmatic. He considers the development of "normal relations" with neighboring and other states as advantageous for Lithuania. The aspirant was confident that, just as inter-state agreements concluded earlier this year propose, the Russian army will be entirely withdrawn from the territory of Lithuania by the end of the year.

"Only unity, harmony, understanding of general problems and effort towards overcoming them can help us cope with these tasks," Brazauskas concluded.

The second presidential candidate, C. Lozoraitis (he has lived in the West since the end of the war) emphasized that he is not the "representative of the Lithuanian community in America, emigrants or exiles." He said that all these years he was on diplomatic work and that he is participating in the presidential elections as an independent candidate who "wishes to reconcile Lithuania." Lozoraitis thinks that now Lithuania is living through a period of stagnation. In his opinion the situation in villages and cities is "tragic." To overcome these difficulties, he is proposing "rousing ourselves, having more zeal, optimism and faith in our strength." Speaking on how to surmount the economic crisis, the presidential candidate drew attention to the possibility of receiving foreign aid and credits and the necessity of using them effectively. Besides, in the opinion of Lozoraitis it is very important to toughen the fight against crime and corruption.

The diplomat announced that he feels that he can "open the gates both to the West and in the East." He stressed the necessity of having good relations with all states and expressed bewilderment that up till now Lithuania does not have its own ambassadors in Moscow, Minsk, Kiev and the capitals of other states.

Lozoraitis defined three main tasks, the resolution of which, in his opinion, the newly elected president must provide: maintaining independence, observance of the constitution and ensuring human rights and democracy.